



THIS IS NOT YOUR PARENTS' COMIC MAGAZINE!

Fantastic Four

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CODE
AUTHORITY

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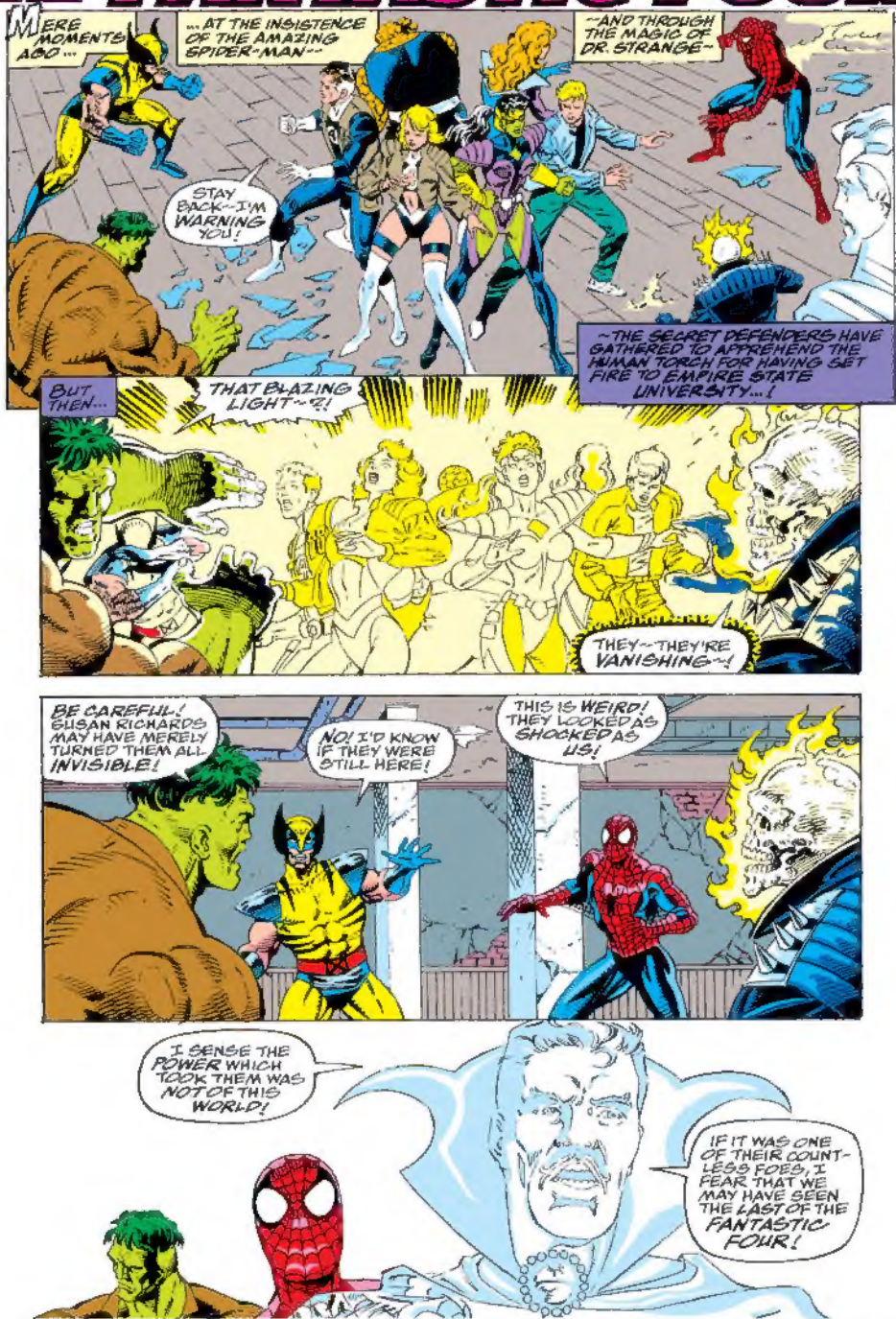
375TH
ANNIVERSARY
SPECTACULAR!

RISE OF DOOM!

KUAN '92

REED RICHARDS, MISTER FANTASTIC! BEN GRIMM, THE THING! SUE RICHARDS, INVISIBLE WOMAN! JOHNNY STORM, THE HUMAN TORCH! TRANSFORMED BY AN ACCIDENT IN OUTER SPACE INTO SOMETHING MUCH MORE THAN HUMAN, THEY VOWED TO USE THEIR AWESOME POWERS TO HELP MANKIND CHART THE UNKNOWN. STAN LEE PRESENTS...

THE FANTASTIC FOUR!



IT'S ALWAYS
DARKEST
BEFORE THE...

DOOM!

WHAT
HAPPENED
--?!

WHERE IN
HEAVEN'S NAME
ARE WE??

AND WHAT'S
THAT
CREATURE
DOING HERE?

HIS NAME IS
UATH,
SHARON!

HE'S A MEMBER
OF AN ALIEN RACE
WHICH SPENDS
ALL ITS TIME
SPYING ON
OTHERS.

OBSERVING
IS A BETTER
DESCRIPTION,
JOHNNY!

OUR WORLD--
AND PERHAPS, THE
UNIVERSE ITSELF--
MUST BE IN GRAVE
JEOPARDY FOR
HIM TO HAVE
SUMMONED US
TO HIS PRIVATE
CITADEL HERE ON
THE MOON!

THE WATCHERS HAVE
TAKEN A STRICT VOW WHICH
FORBIDS THEM TO INTER-
FERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF
OTHER CIVILIZATIONS!

SO WHY
DID HE CALL
US? WEREN'T
THE AVENGERS
IN TOWN?

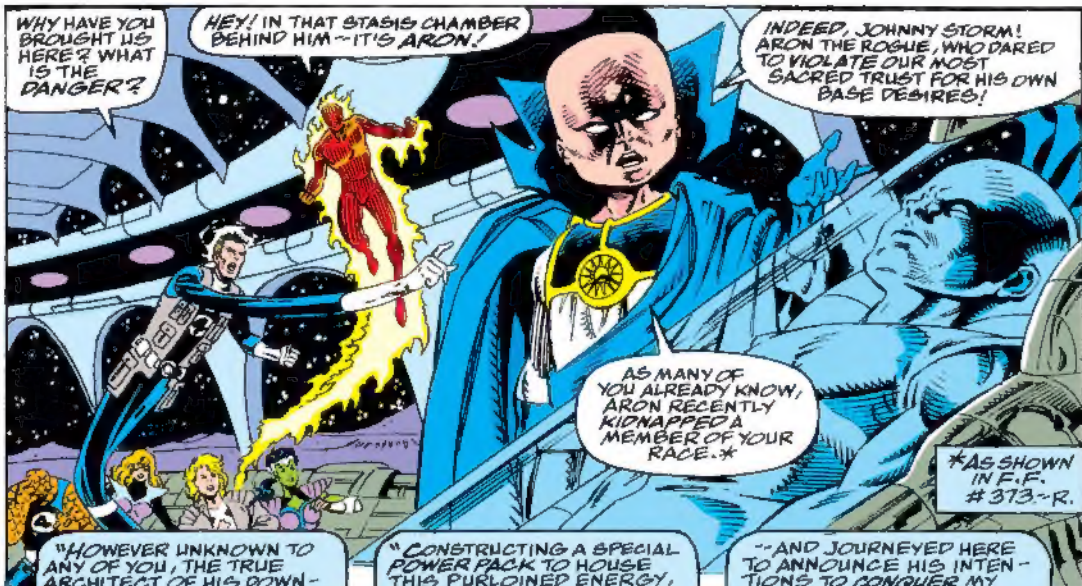
WHY ISN'T
HE A FAN OF
THE X-MEN
LIKE EVERY
ONE ELSE??

BE AT EASE
MY FRIENDS...
ALL WILL BE
SOON
EXPLAINED...

A TALE OF WILD WONDERMENT BY:

TOM DEFALCO & PAUL RYAN
PLOT, PENCILS & SCRIPT
DAN BULANADI, MORELLI & PARKER
INKS LETTERS

GINA GOING PAT GARRAHY
COLORS ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR



WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US HERE? WHAT IS THE DANGER?

HEY! IN THAT STASIS CHAMBER BEHIND HIM--IT'S ARON!

INDEED, JOHNNY STORM! ARON THE ROGUE, WHO DARED TO VIOLATE OUR MOST SACRED TRUST FOR HIS OWN BASE DESIRES!

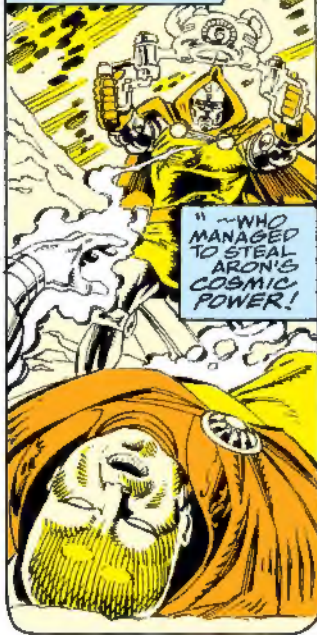
AS MANY OF YOU ALREADY KNOW, ARON RECENTLY KIDNAPPED A MEMBER OF YOUR RACE.*

*AS SHOWN IN F.F. #373-R.

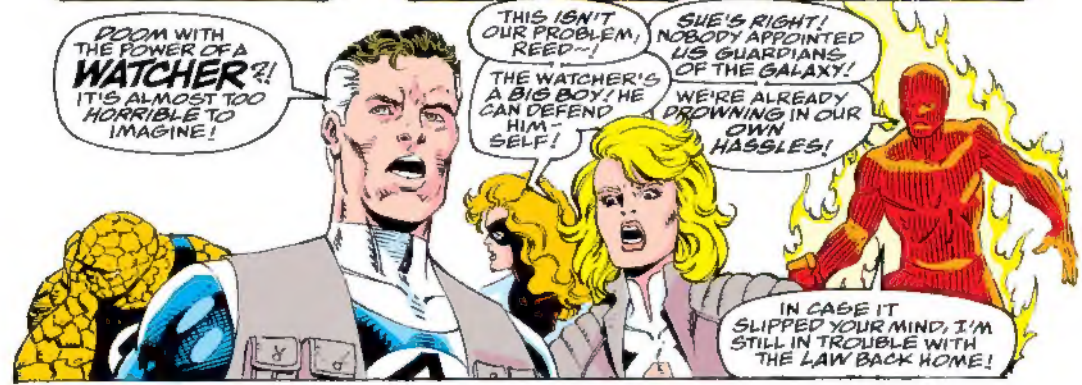
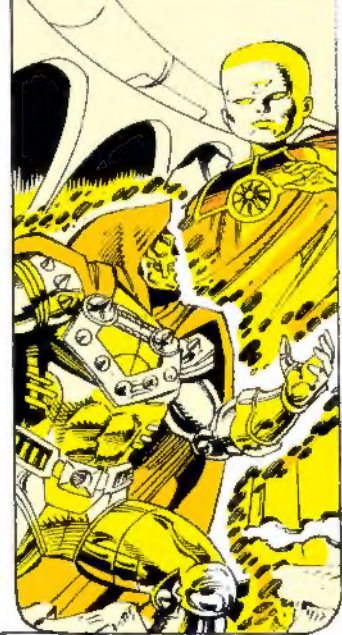
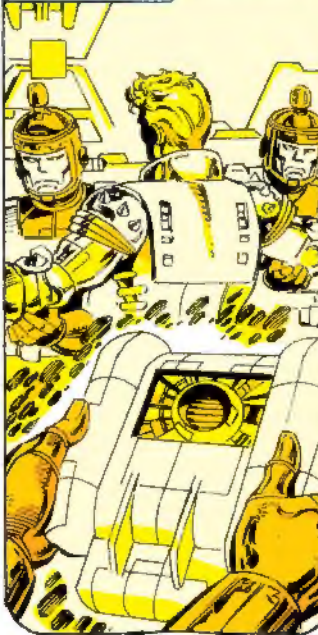
"HOWEVER UNKNOWN TO ANY OF YOU, THE TRUE ARCHITECT OF HIS DOWNFALL WAS THE MAN CALLED DOCTOR DOOM--"

"CONSTRUCTING A SPECIAL POWER PACK TO HOUSE THIS PURLOINED ENERGY, HE DESIGNED A NEW SUIT OF ARMOR--"

--AND JOURNEYED HERE TO ANNOUNCE HIS INTENTIONS TO CONQUER MY CITADEL AND MYSELF!



"--WHO MANAGED TO STEAL ARON'S COSMIC POWER!"



DOOM WITH THE POWER OF A **WATCHER**?! IT'S ALMOST TOO HORRIBLE TO IMAGINE!

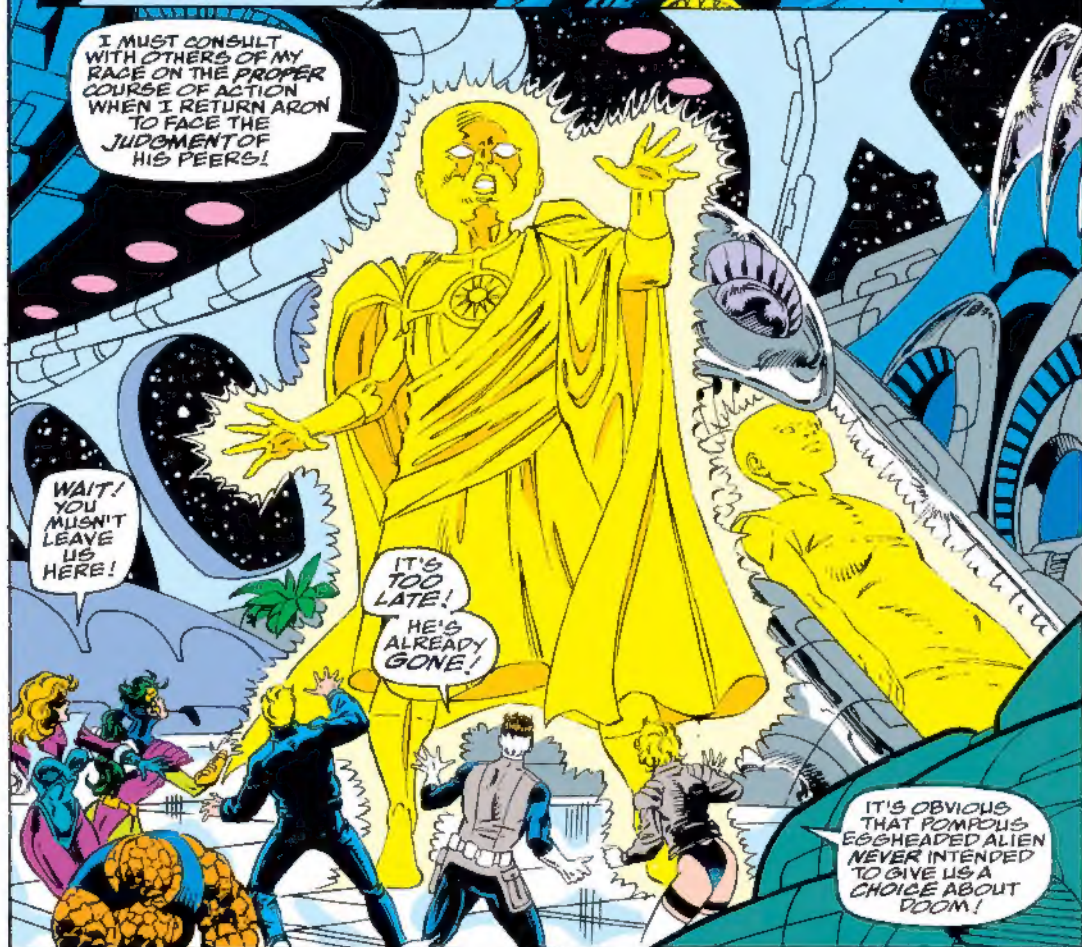
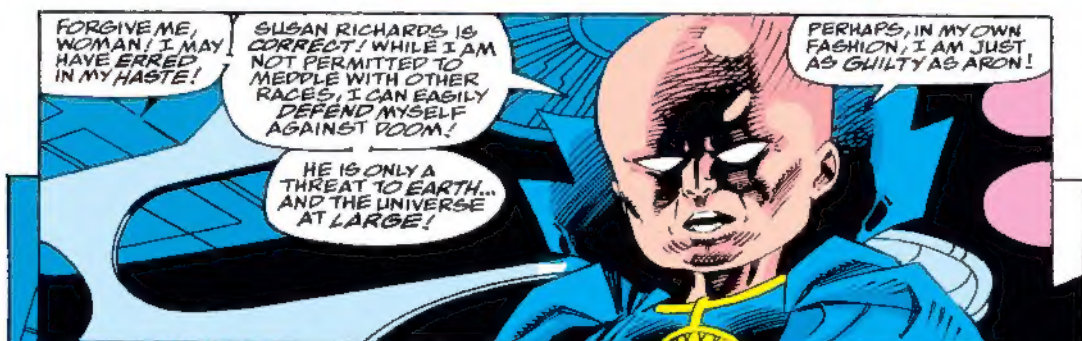
THIS ISN'T OUR PROBLEM, REED--!

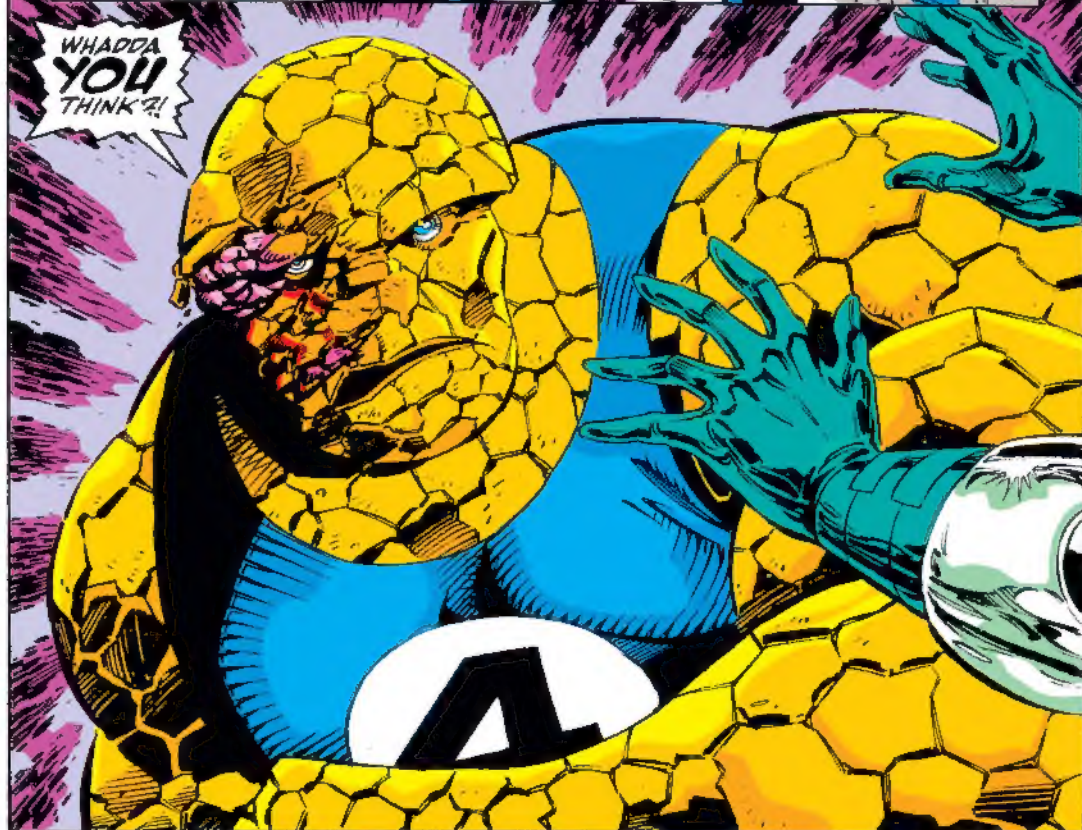
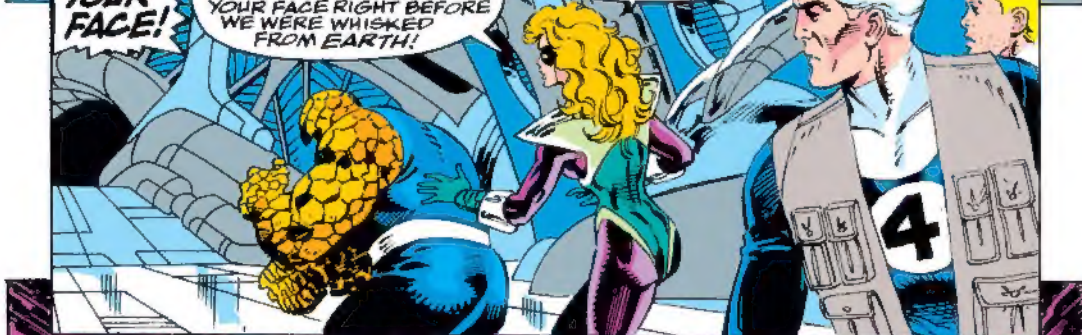
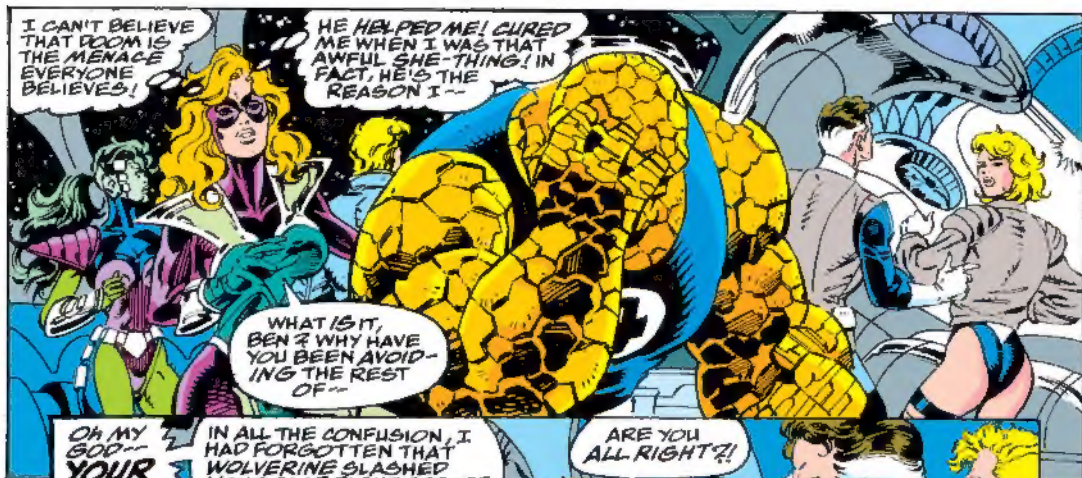
THE WATCHER'S A BIG BOY! HE CAN DEFEND HIMSELF!

SHE'S RIGHT! NOBODY APPOINTED US GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!

WE'RE ALREADY DROWNING IN OUR OWN HASSLES!

IN CASE IT SLIPPED YOUR MIND, I'M STILL IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW BACK HOME!





EVEN AS OUR HEROES
GASP IN HORROR, A
DEADLY, MENACING
FIGURE ROCKETS
THROUGH THE
WATCHER'S INCRED-
IBLE ALIEN WON-
DERLAND...!

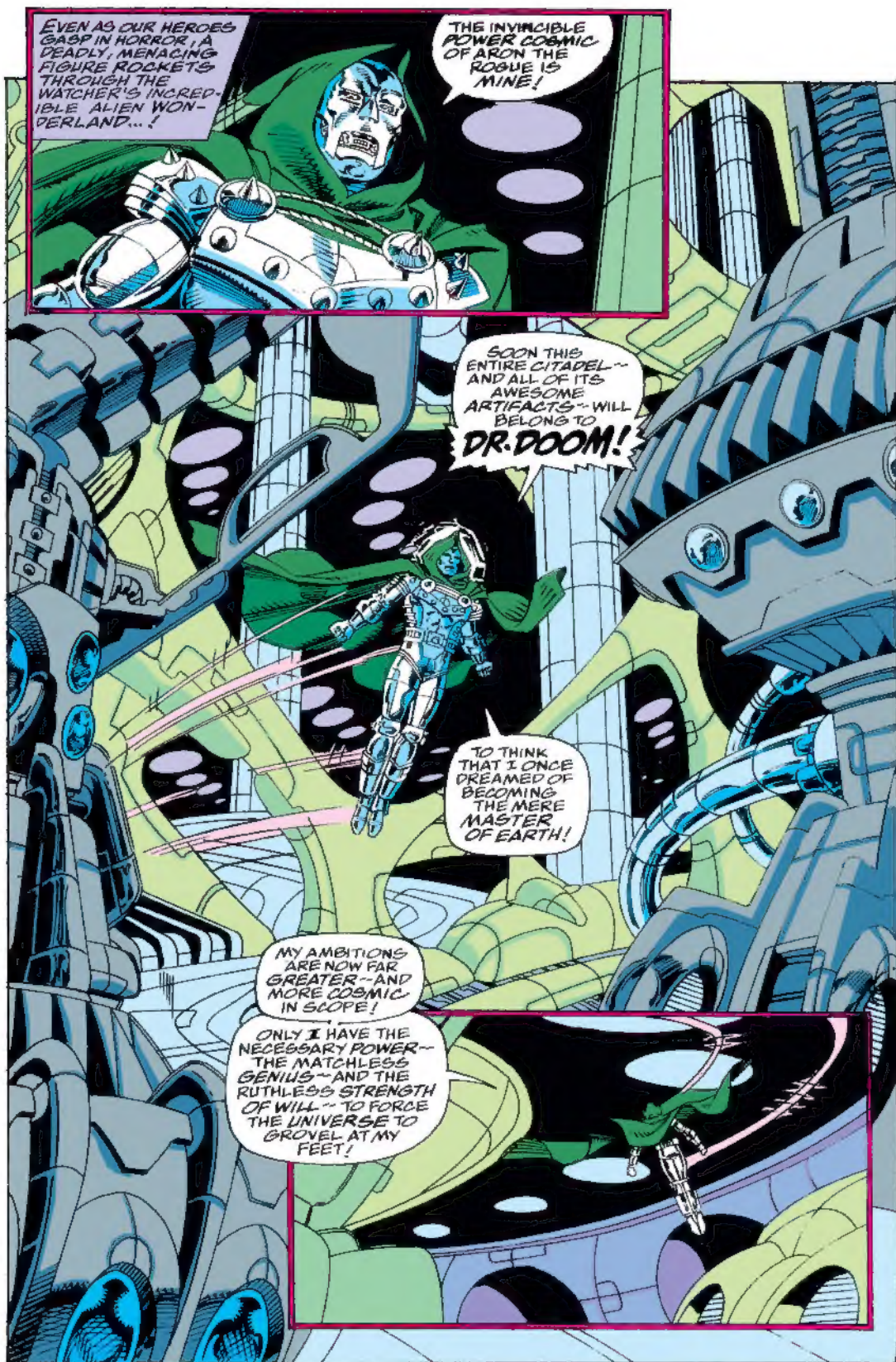
THE INVINCIBLE
POWER COSMIC
OF ARON THE
ROBUE IS
MINE!

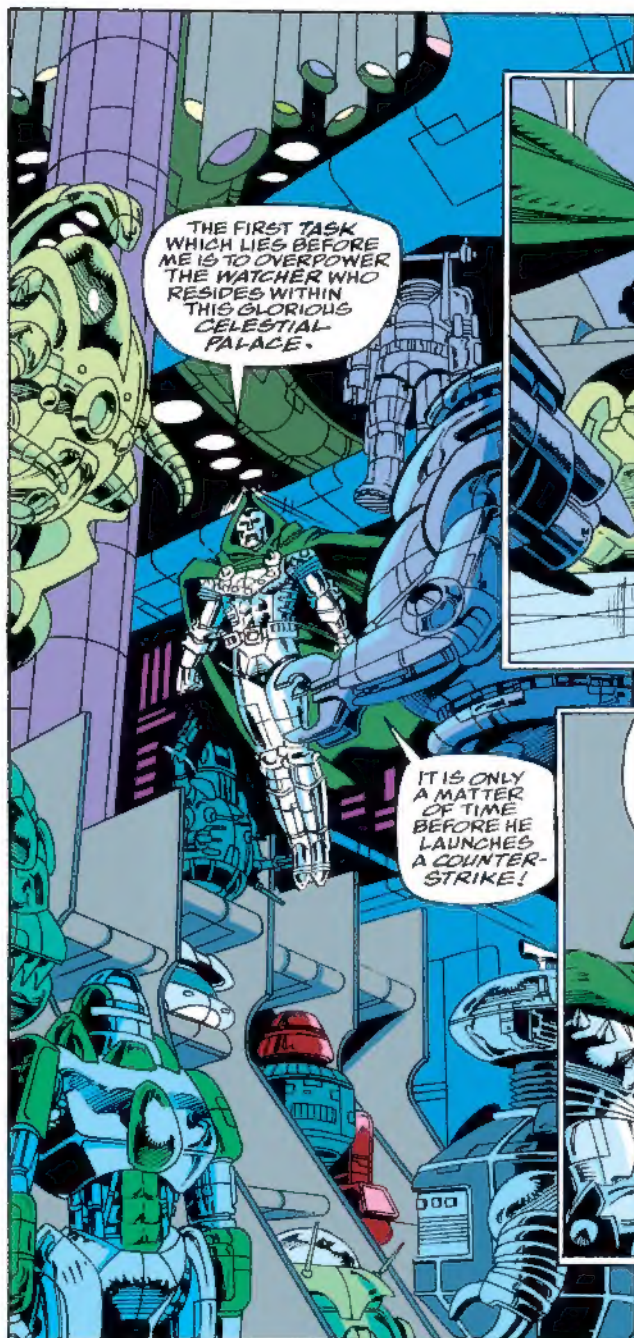
SOON THIS
ENTIRE CITADEL--
AND ALL OF ITS
AWESOME
ARTIFACTS--WILL
BELONG TO
DR. DOOM!

TO THINK
THAT I ONCE
DREAMED OF
BECOMING
THE MERE
MASTER
OF EARTH!

MY AMBITIONS
ARE NOW FAR
GREATER--AND
MORE COSMIC--
IN SCOPE!

ONLY I HAVE THE
NECESSARY POWER--
THE MATCHLESS
GENIUS--AND THE
RUTHLESS STRENGTH
OF WILL--TO FORCE
THE UNIVERSE TO
GROVEL AT MY
FEET!





THE FIRST TASK WHICH LIES BEFORE ME IS TO OVERPOWER THE WATCHER WHO RESIDES WITHIN THIS GLORIOUS CELESTIAL PALACE.

IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE LAUNCHES A COUNTER-STRIKE!

ONCE I HAVE ENSLAVED THE WATCHER, I WILL TURN MY UNBRIDLED ATTENTIONS TO THE UTTER ANNIHILATION OF THOSE WHOM I LOATHE MOST OF ALL--



AS IS MY USUAL HABIT, I MUST ANTICIPATE EVERY POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY!



I CAN EASILY REPROGRAM THESE EXTRATERRESTRIAL SERVICE ROBOTS--WHOSE ODD INSTRUMENTATION WAS SURELY DESIGNED FOR FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE TOTALLY BEYOND ALL HUMAN CONCEPTION--SAVE MINE!

MY MASTERY OF ROBOTICS KNOWS NO EQUAL!

--THE ACCURSED
**FANTASTIC
FOUR!**

UNLIKE THE REST OF THE AIRLESS MOON, THE MYSTERIOUS BLUE AREA CONTAINS ITS OWN ARTIFICIAL ATMOSPHERE WHICH WAS BUILT BY SOME LONG-VANISHED ALIEN RACE.

IN THE DISTANCE ARE THE GLEAMING SPIRES OF ATTILAN, HOME OF THE UN-CANNY
INHUMANS!

--WHOSE ROYAL FAMILY IS NOW RACING TOWARD THE WATCHER'S HOME!

BEHOLD! WE NEAR OUR DESTINATION!

BLACK BOLT GESTURES TO US TO BE CAUTIOUS!

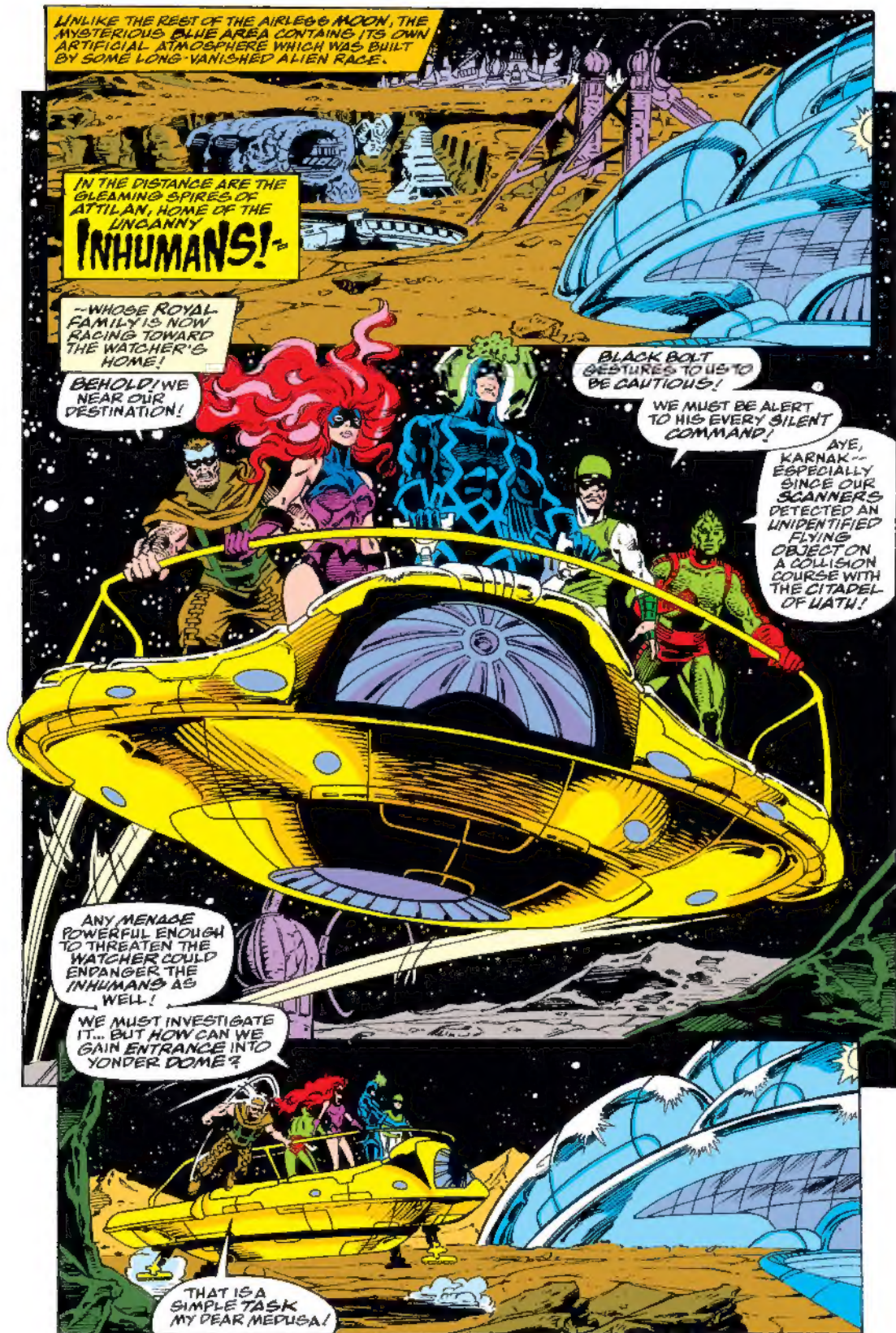
WE MUST BE ALERT TO HIS EVERY SILENT COMMAND!

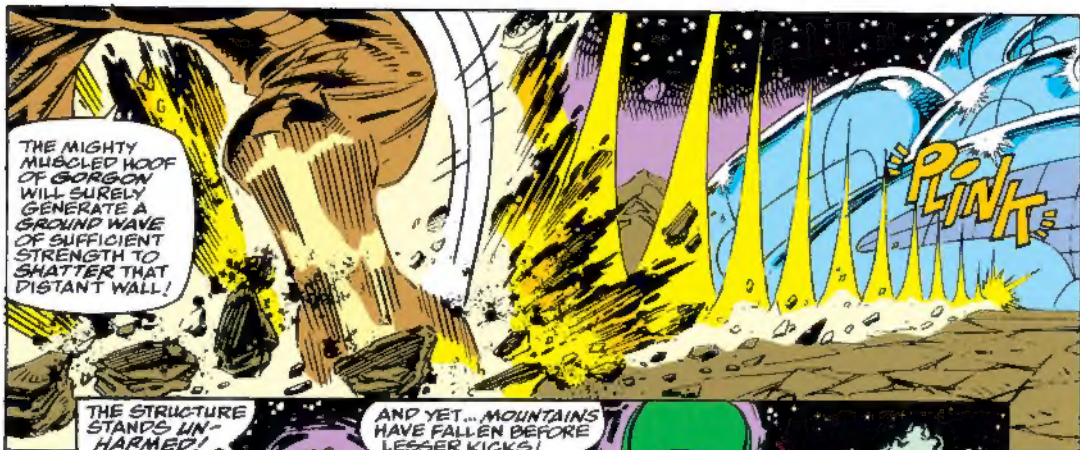
AYE, KARNAK-- ESPECIALLY SINCE OUR SCANNERS DETECTED AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE CITADEL OF LIATH!

ANY MENACE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO THREATEN THE WATCHER COULD ENDANGER THE INHUMANS AS WELL!

WE MUST INVESTIGATE IT... BUT HOW CAN WE GAIN ENTRANCE INTO YONDER DOME?

THAT IS A SIMPLE TASK MY DEAR MEDUSA!



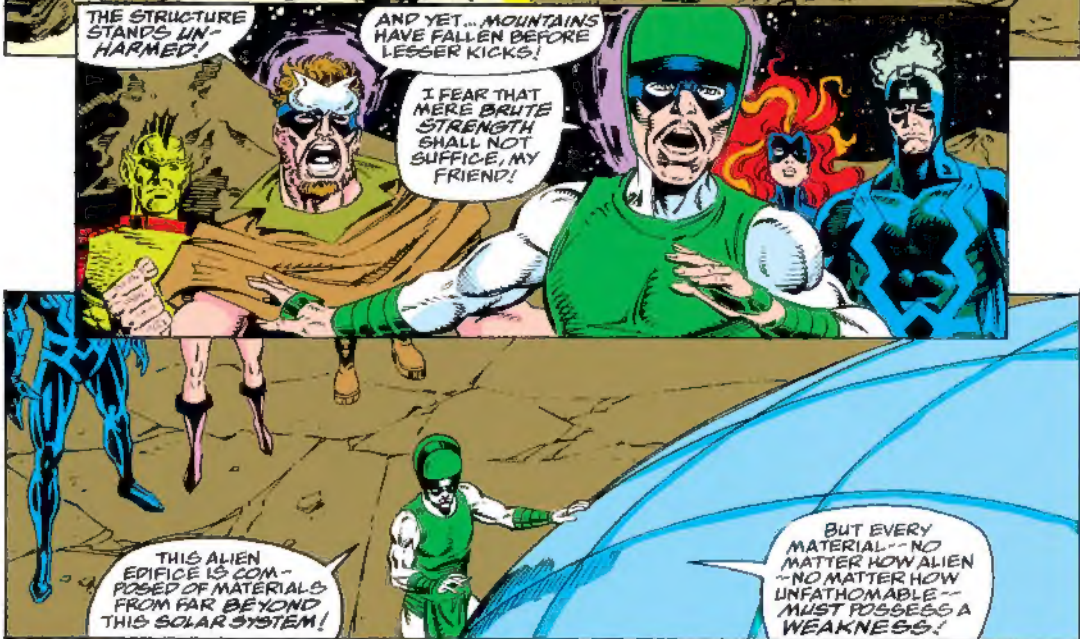


THE MIGHTY MUSCLED HOOF OF GORGON WILL SURELY GENERATE A GROUND WAVE OF SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO SHATTER THAT DISTANT WALL!

THE STRUCTURE STANDS UNHARMED!

AND YET... MOUNTAINS HAVE FALLEN BEFORE LESSER KICKS!

I FEAR THAT MERE BRUTE STRENGTH SHALL NOT SUFFICE, MY FRIEND!



THIS ALIEN EDIFICE IS COMPOSED OF MATERIALS FROM FAR BEYOND THIS SOLAR SYSTEM!

BUT EVERY MATERIAL-- NO MATTER HOW ALIEN-- NO MATTER HOW UNFATHOMABLE-- MUST POSSESS A WEAKNESS!



AT LAST! I HAVE MANAGED TO GENSE THE NECESSARY STRESS POINT!

I MUST STRIKE AT THE PROPER ANGLE~!



WHAT MADNESS IS THIS??

MY HAND PASSES HARMLESSLY THROUGH!



BLACK BOLT INDICATES THAT OUR ARRIVAL WAS APPARENTLY ANTICIPATED!

MEANWHILE, WITHIN
THE CITADEL...

I KNOW THAT
WE SEPARATED
INTO TEAMS TO
COVER MORE GROUND,
BUT I NEEDED TO
GET BEN ALONE!

OUR RELATIONSHIP
HAS BEEN IN TOTAL CHAOS!
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHERE
I STAND WITH HIM ANY-
MORE--!

THIS PLACE
LOOKS LIKE SOME
SORT'A
MUSEUM!

WHO'DA THUNK IT? THE
WATCHER'S GOT HIM-
SELF A PRETTY NEAT
COLLECTION!

WONDER WHERE
HE KEEPS HIS
COMICS?

BEN--THERE'S SO
MUCH WE NEED TO
DISCUSS--

--STARTING
WITH DOOM!

AIN'T NUTHIN' TA
DISCUSS! HE'S A
MANIAC WHO
WANTS TA
CONQUER TH'
UNIVERSE!

'NUFF
SAID!

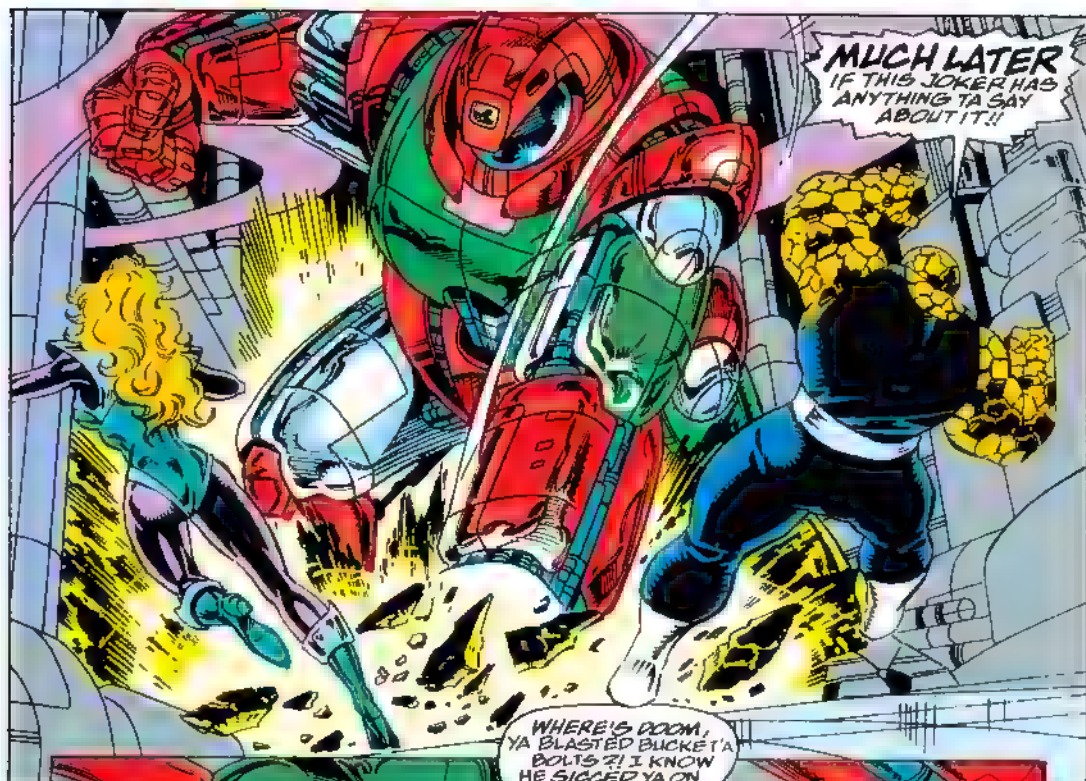
HEY! WHAT'S
THAT BEHIND
YA--?!

THE ANSWER'S
OBVIOUS--AS
OBVIOUS AS YOUR
TRANSPARENT
FLOYS TO
AVOID ME!

BEN--YOU KNOW I WENT TO
DOOM WHEN REED FAILED
TO HELP ME!

SOONER OR LATER
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO START
DEALING WITH IT... AND ME!

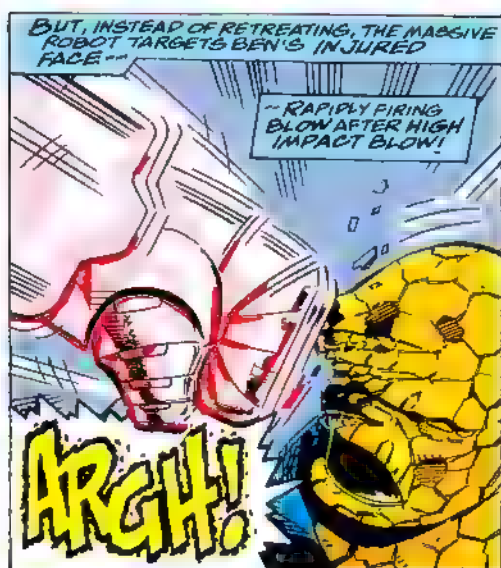
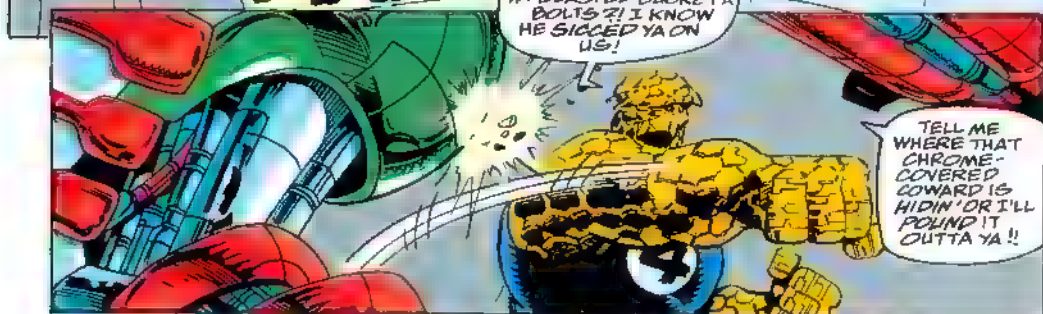
YEAH...WELL...I GOT A
HUNCH IT'S GONNA BE
LATER, LADY!



MUCH LATER
IF THIS JOKER HAS
ANYTHING TO SAY
ABOUT IT!!

WHERE'S DOOM,
YA BLASTED BUCKET'A
BOLTS?! I KNOW
HE SICKED YA ON
US!

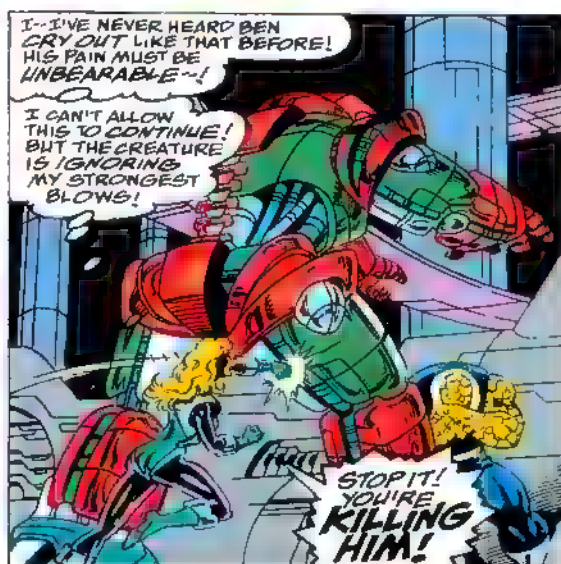
TELL ME
WHERE THAT
CHROME-
COVERED
COWARD IS
HIDIN' OR I'LL
POUND IT
OUTTA YA!!



BUT, INSTEAD OF RETREATING, THE MASSIVE
ROBOT TARGETS BEN'S INJURED
FACE...

~ RAPIDLY FIRING
BLOW AFTER HIGH
IMPACT BLOW!

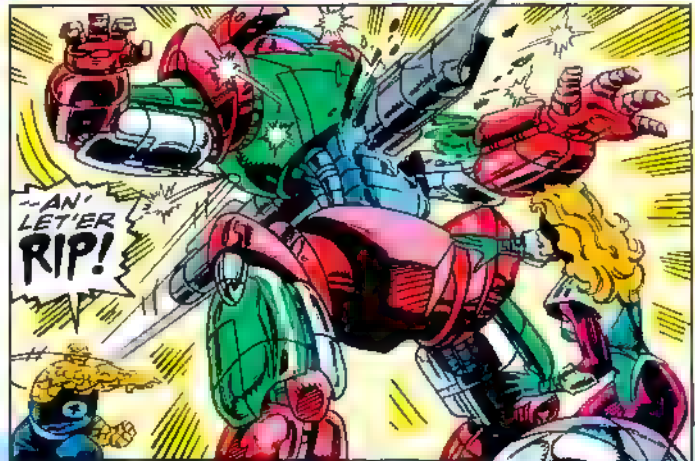
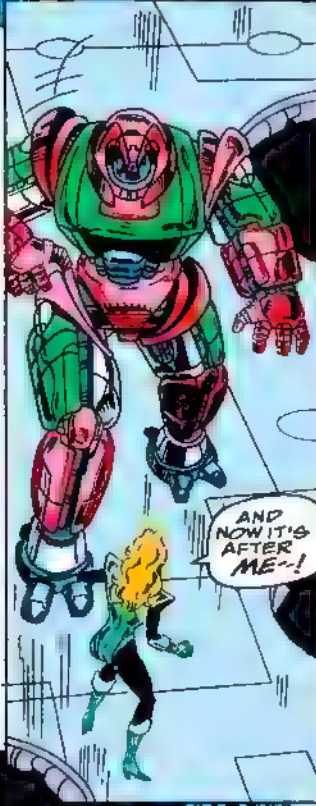
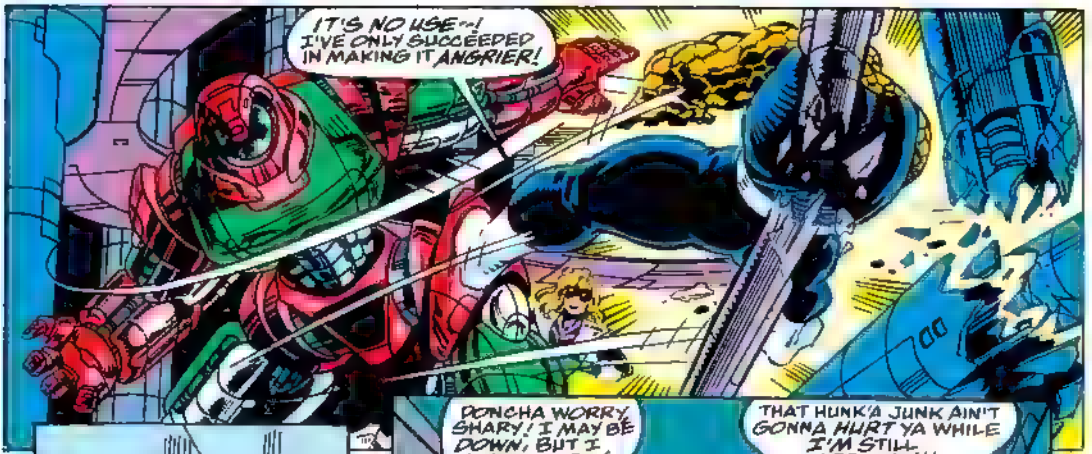
ARGH!

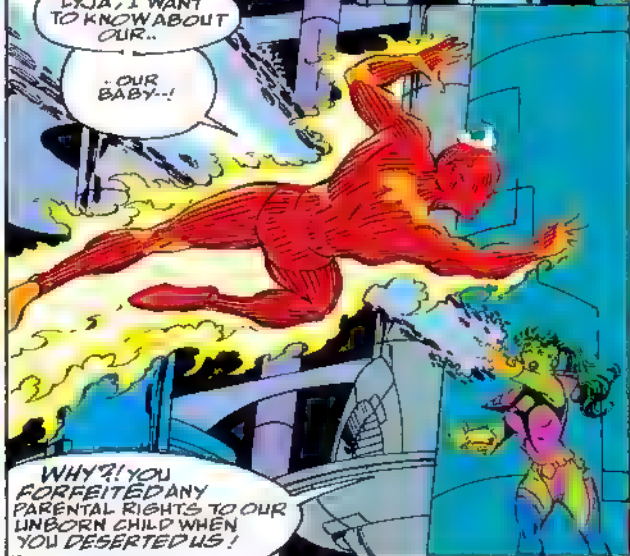
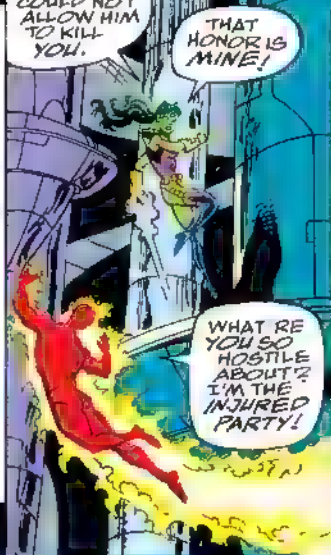
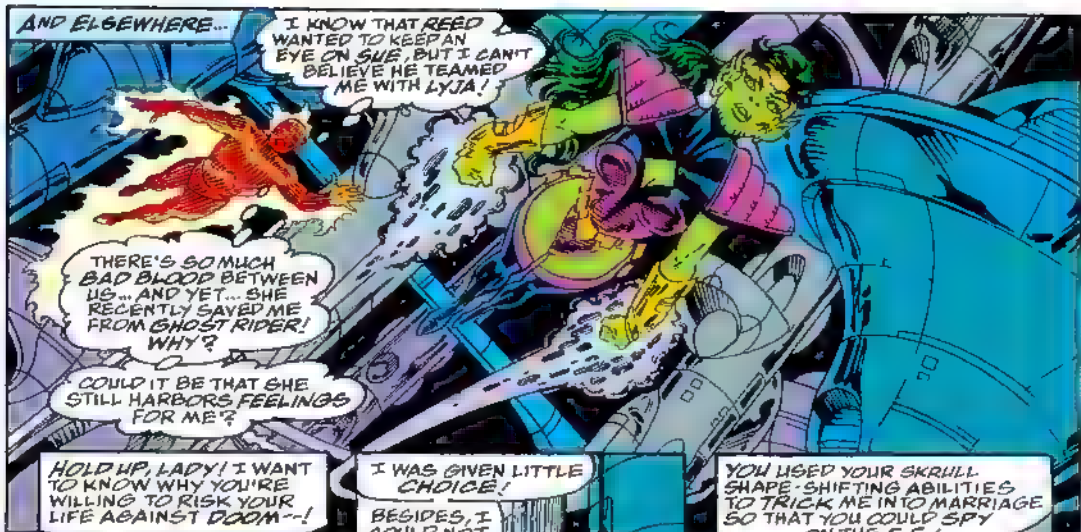


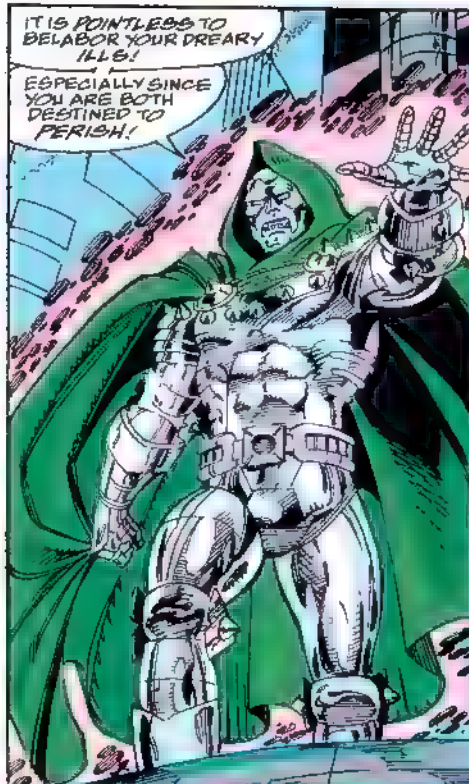
I--I'VE NEVER HEARD BEN
CRY OUT LIKE THAT BEFORE!
HIS PAIN MUST BE
UNBEARABLE~!

I CAN'T ALLOW
THIS TO CONTINUE!
BUT THE CREATURE
IS IGNORING
MY STRONGEST
BLOWS!

STOP IT!
YOU'RE
KILLING
HIM!







IT IS POINTLESS TO
BELABOR YOUR DREARY
ILLS!

ESPECIALLY SINCE
YOU ARE BOTH
DESTINED TO
PERISH!

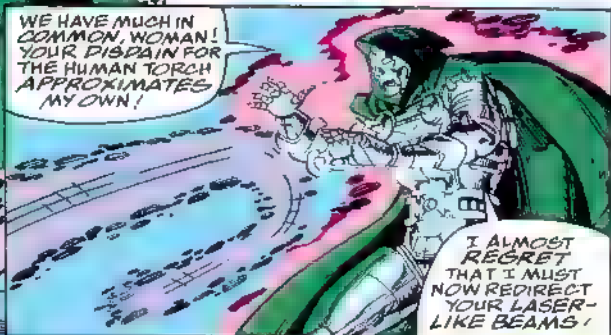


NICE TRY,
JOHNNY!

BUT DOOM SEEMS AS
UNIMRESSED BY
YOUR INFANTILE
ATTEMPT AT
HEROIC DIALOGUE
AS I!

LYJA--
WAIT! WE
SHOULD
ALERT THE
OTHERS!

GO AHEAD--RUN
WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
I NEVER EXPECTED
YOU TO STAY!

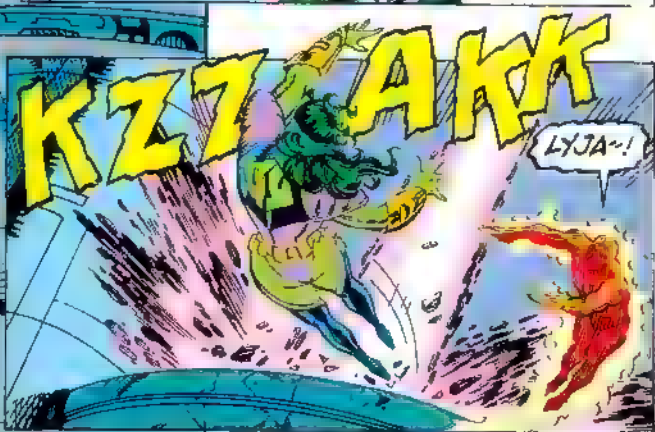


WE HAVE MUCH IN
COMMON, WOMAN!
YOUR DISDAIN FOR
THE HUMAN TORCH
APPROXIMATES
MY OWN!

I ALMOST
REGRET
THAT I MUST
NOW REDIRECT
YOUR LASER-
LIKE BEAMS!

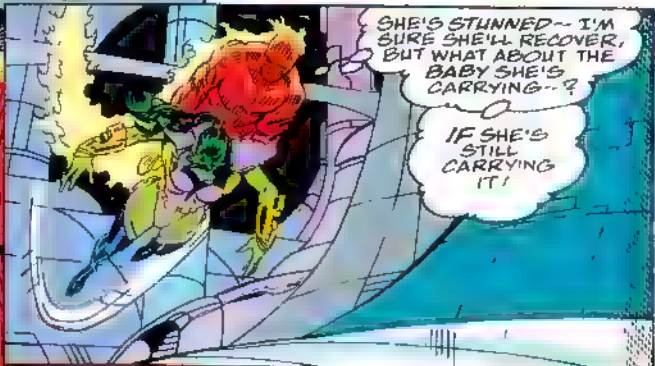


I HATE TO
RUIN YOUR MOMENT
OF MELODRAMA,
PAL, BUT DON'T
BET THE RANCH
ON IT--!



KZZZ AKK

LYJA--!



SHE'S STUNNED-- I'M
SURE SHE'LL RECOVER,
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE
BABY SHE'S
CARRYING--?

IF SHE'S
STILL
CARRYING
IT!

IS IT ONLY THE BABY I CARE ABOUT, OR-- NO! THIS WOMAN DECEIVED ME-- PRACTICALLY RUINED MY LIFE!

I CAN'T FORGIVE HER!

AND I WON'T LET HER DISTRACT ME ANYMORE!

OKAY, DOOM, YOU'VE GOT MY FULL ATTENTION NOW... AND BELIEVE ME-- YOU WON'T ENJOY IT!

DO NOT FLATTER YOURSELF, STORM! WITH ALL THE EFFORT OF A CASUAL THOUGHT, I CAN EASILY ABSORB YOUR ONSLAUGHT--

KRA

KWOOOM

--AND CONVERT IT INTO A DEADLY ENERGY BACKLASH WHICH WILL EXTINGUISH YOUR OVERRATED FLAME!

WUFF

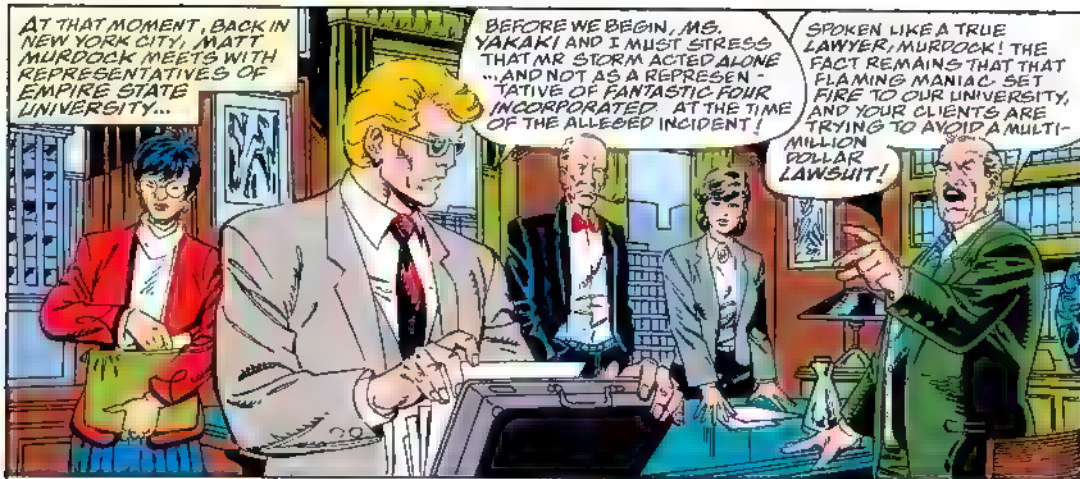
HE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER BEFORE!

BUT THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY TO BEAT HIM--!

YOUR DEFIANT EXPRESSION REVEALS THAT YOU HAVE NOT YET ACCEPTED THE UTTER HOPELESSNESS OF YOUR CAUSE!

EXCELLENT! KNOWING THAT YOU WILL NEVER SURRENDER WILL MAKE CRUSHING YOU AN EVEN GREATER PLEASURE!

I WILL EVEN ALLOW YOU TIME TO PLAN A NEW ATTACK IN THE FUTILE HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE CREATIVE ENOUGH TO AMUSE ME!



AT THAT MOMENT, BACK IN NEW YORK CITY, MATT MURDOCK MEETS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...

BEFORE WE BEGIN, MS. YAKAKI AND I MUST STRESS THAT MR STORM ACTED ALONE ...AND NOT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF FANTASTIC FOUR INCORPORATED AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED INCIDENT!

SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE LAWYER, MURDOCK! THE FACT REMAINS THAT THAT FLAMING MANIAC SET FIRE TO OUR UNIVERSITY, AND YOUR CLIENTS ARE TRYING TO AVOID A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR LAWSUIT!

SUCCINCTLY PHRASED, MR. LOSEY, AND I ALSO WISH TO BE BLUNT...

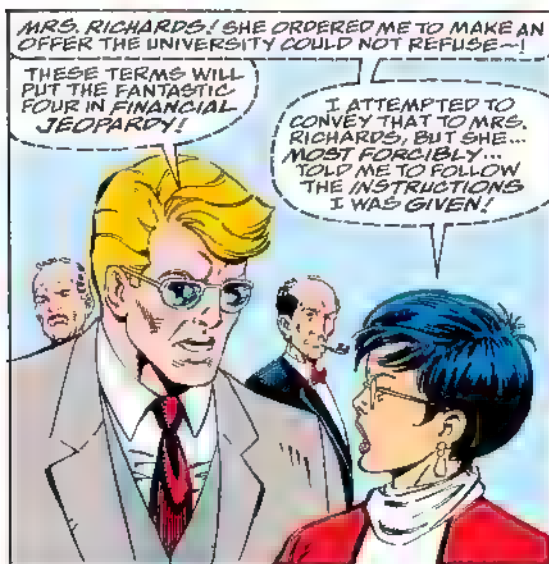
WE ARE PREPARED TO OFFER A SIZABLE CASH SETTLEMENT, ALONG WITH A NEW ATHLETIC CENTER PLUS THE FUTURE PROCEEDS FROM SCIENTIFIC PATENTS OWNED BY THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

AND, AFTER MAKIO YAKAKI HAS OUTLINED HER PLAN IN GREATER DETAIL...

CAN I SPEAK TO YOU PRIVATELY..?

YOU MAY BE THE FINANCIAL EXPERT... BUT THAT PROPOSAL CAUGHT ME COMPLETELY OFF GUARD!

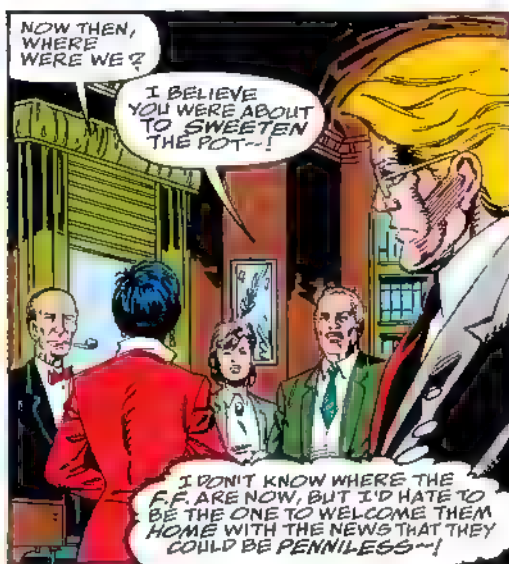
WHO AUTHORIZED A SETTLEMENT OF THIS MAGNITUDE?



MRS. RICHARDS! SHE ORDERED ME TO MAKE AN OFFER THE UNIVERSITY COULD NOT REFUSE~!

THESE TERMS WILL PUT THE FANTASTIC FOUR IN FINANCIAL JEOPARDY!

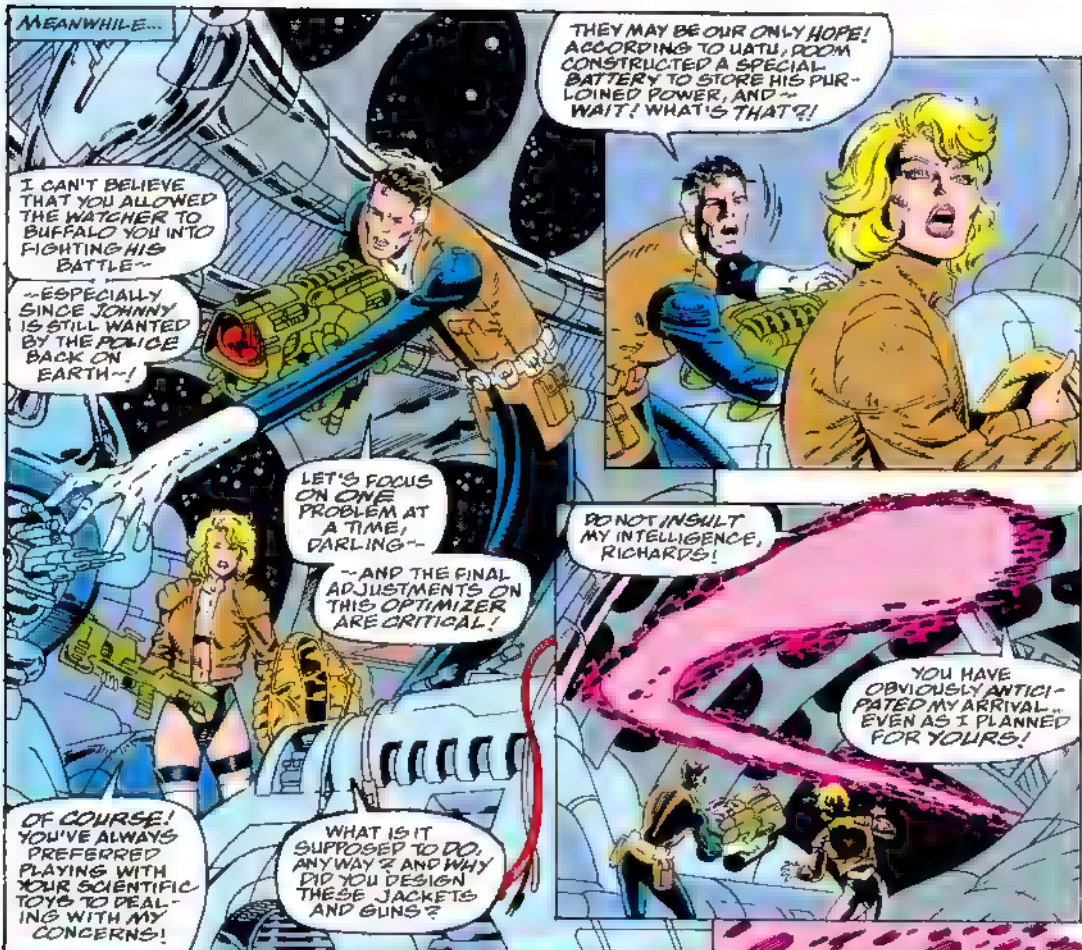
I ATTEMPTED TO CONVEY THAT TO MRS. RICHARDS, BUT SHE... MOST FORCIBLY... TOLD ME TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS I WAS GIVEN!



NOW THEN, WHERE WERE WE?

I BELIEVE YOU WERE ABOUT TO SWEETEN THE POT~!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE F.F. ARE NOW, BUT I'D HATE TO BE THE ONE TO WELCOME THEM HOME WITH THE NEWS THAT THEY COULD BE PENNILESS~!



MEANWHILE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU ALLOWED THE WATCHER TO BUFFALO YOU INTO FIGHTING HIS BATTLE--

--ESPECIALLY SINCE JOHNNY IS STILL WANTED BY THE POLICE BACK ON EARTH--!

LET'S FOCUS ON ONE PROBLEM AT A TIME, DARLING--

--AND THE FINAL ADJUSTMENTS ON THIS OPTIMIZER ARE CRITICAL!

OF COURSE! YOU'VE ALWAYS PREFERRED PLAYING WITH YOUR SCIENTIFIC TOYS TO DEALING WITH MY CONCERNS!

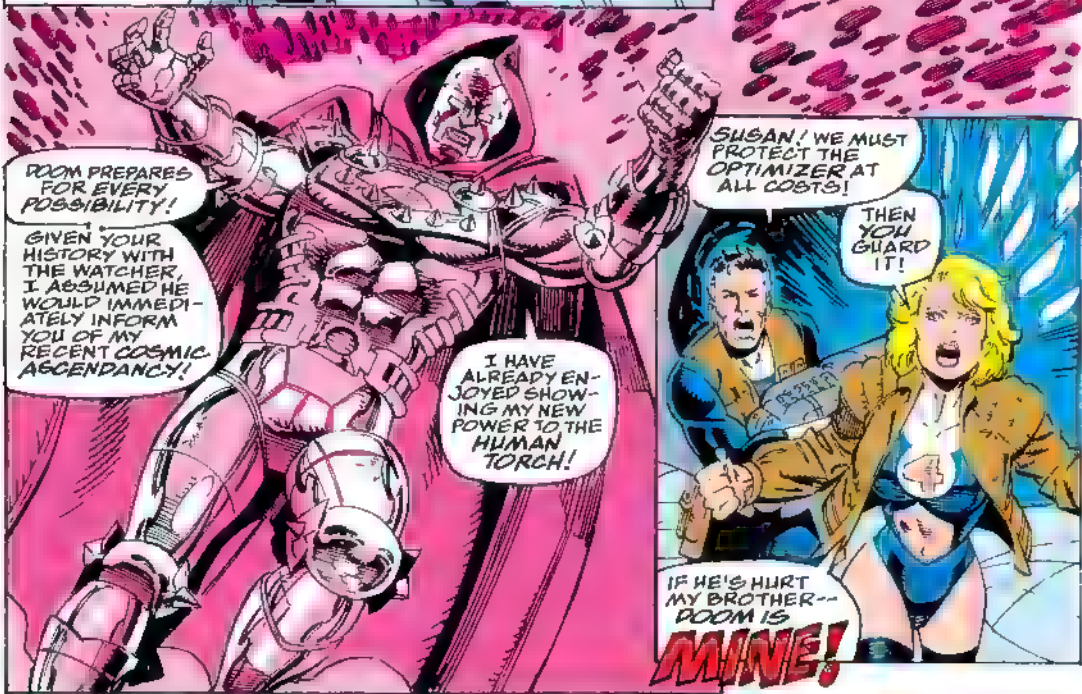
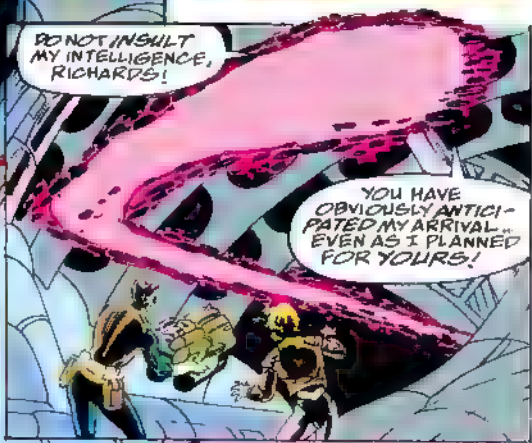
WHAT IS IT SUPPOSED TO DO, ANYWAY? AND WHY DID YOU DESIGN THESE JACKETS AND GUNS?

THEY MAY BE OUR ONLY HOPE! ACCORDING TO UATU, DOOM CONSTRUCTED A SPECIAL BATTERY TO STORE HIS PURLOINED POWER, AND-- WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?!



DO NOT INSULT MY INTELLIGENCE, RICHARDS!

YOU HAVE OBVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED MY ARRIVAL-- EVEN AS I PLANNED FOR YOURS!



DOOM PREPARES FOR EVERY POSSIBILITY!

GIVEN YOUR HISTORY WITH THE WATCHER, I ASSUMED HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY INFORM YOU OF MY RECENT COSMIC ASCENDANCY!

I HAVE ALREADY ENJOYED SHOWING MY NEW POWER TO THE HUMAN TORCH!

SUSAN! WE MUST PROTECT THE OPTIMIZER AT ALL COSTS!

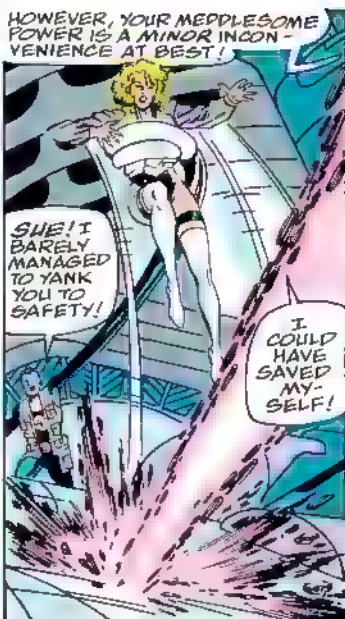
THEN YOU GUARD IT!

IF HE'S HURT MY BROTHER--
DOOM IS MINE!



FORCE
DAGGERS
212

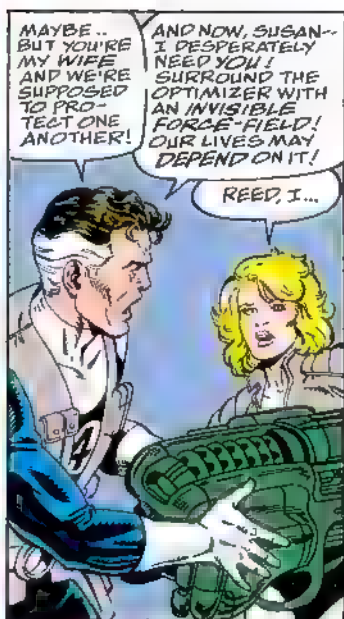
IT APPEARS I
AM NOT THE
ONLY ONE WHO
HAS CHANGED!



SHE! I
BARELY
MANAGED
TO YANK
YOU TO
SAFETY!

I
COULD
HAVE
SAVED
MY-
SELF!

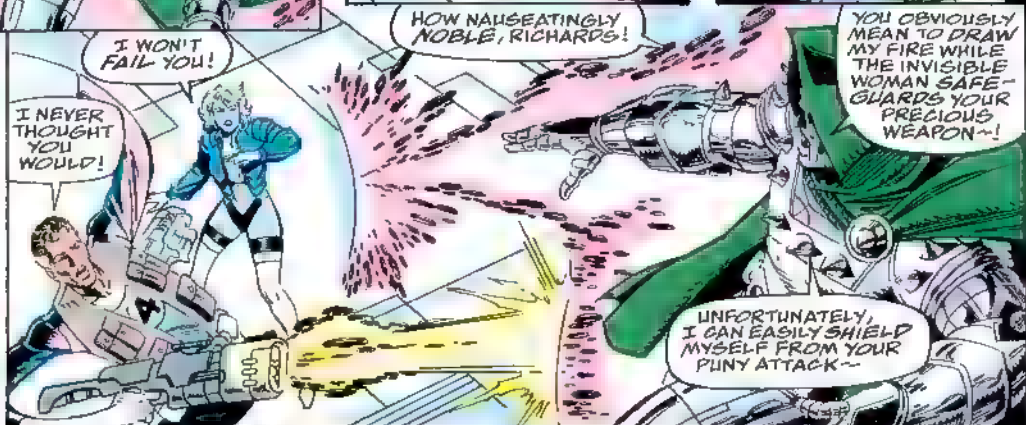
HOWEVER, YOUR MEDDLESOME
POWER IS A MINOR INCON-
VENIENCE AT BEST!



MAYBE...
BUT YOU'RE
MY WIFE
AND WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO PRO-
TECT ONE
ANOTHER!

AND NOW, SUSAN--
I DESPERATELY
NEED YOU!
SURROUND THE
OPTIMIZER WITH
AN INVISIBLE
FORCE-FIELD!
OUR LIVES MAY
DEPEND ON IT!

REED, I...



I WON'T
FAIL YOU!

I NEVER
THOUGHT
YOU
WOULD!

HOW NAUSEATINGLY
NOBLE, RICHARDS!

YOU OBVIOUSLY
MEAN TO DRAW
MY FIRE WHILE
THE INVISIBLE
WOMAN SAFE-
GUARDS YOUR
PRECIOUS
WEAPON--!

UNFORTUNATELY,
I CAN EASILY SHIELD
MYSELF FROM YOUR
PUNY ATTACK--

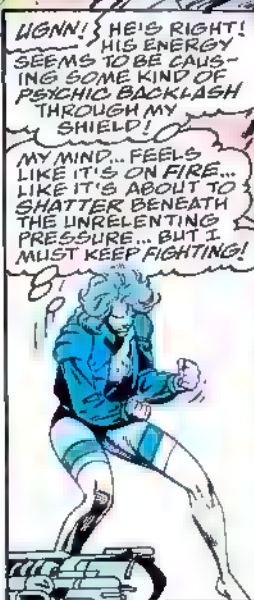


~WHILE I
CONCENTRATE
THE BULK OF
MY ATTACK
ON HER!

YOU'RE ONLY
WASTING ENERGY,
DOOM! NOTHING'S
EVER MANAGED
TO PENETRATE
MY FORCE FIELD!

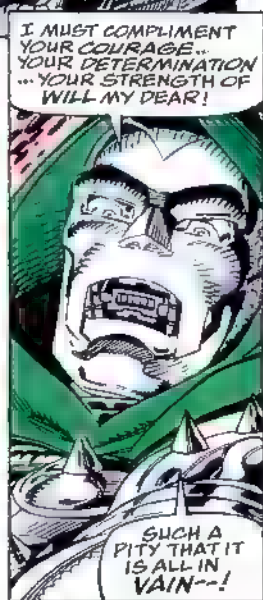


I POSSESS ALIEN
POWER WHICH IS
TOTALLY BEYOND
ANYTHING YOU HAVE
EXPERIENCED!



UHHH! HE IS RIGHT!
HIS ENERGY
SEEMS TO BE CAUS-
ING SOME KIND OF
PSYCHIC BACKLASH
THROUGH MY
SHIELD!

MY MIND... FEELS
LIKE IT'S ON FIRE...
LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO
SHATTER BENEATH
THE UNRELENTING
PRESSURE... BUT I
MUST KEEP FIGHTING!



I MUST COMPLIMENT
YOUR COURAGE...
YOUR DETERMINATION
...YOUR STRENGTH OF
WILL MY DEAR!

SUCH A
PITY THAT IT
IS ALL IN
VAIN--!

NEVER KNEW... ANY PAIN... COULD BE SO BAD... BUT MUST KEEP FIGHTING... KEEP CONCENTRATING EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!

ARYKGH!

SUSAN!

THE STRAIN WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER! HER FORCE FIELD IS SHATTERING IN AN ENERGY OVERLOAD!

THE OPTIMIZER WAS COMPLETELY INCINERATED!

SHE'S STILL BREATHING, BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT EFFECT SUCH MASSIVE TRAUMA HAD ON HER MIND AND POWERS?!

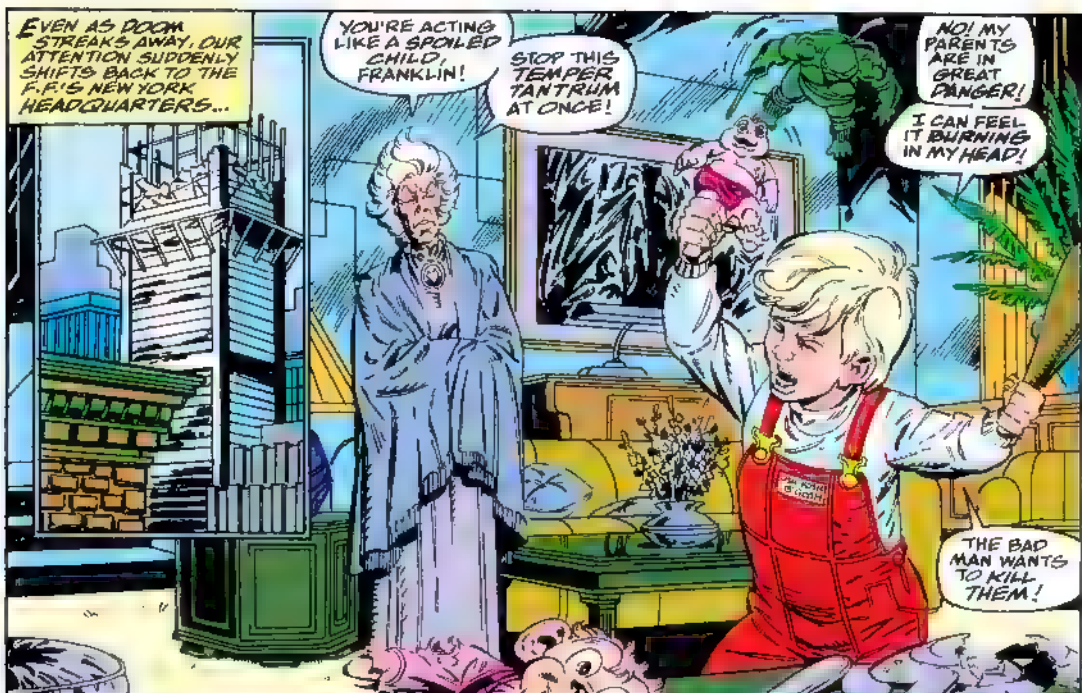
MY WEAPONS SYSTEM WAS DAMAGED BY THE BLAST, BUT RICHARDS IS SO DISTRACTED BY HIS WIFE'S INJURIES THAT I COULD EASILY DISPOSE OF HIM!

HE MUST BE MADE TO SUFFER FOR THE MANY TIMES HE HAS DEFIED ME~!

I WILL EFFECT THE NECESSARY REPAIRS TO MY ARMOR!

WE MUST BOTH BEAT OUR FINEST FOR OUR FINAL CONFRONTATION!

NO! SUCH A VICTORY WOULD RING HOLLOW... DEVOID OF SATISFACTION!



EVEN AS DOOM STREAKS AWAY, OUR ATTENTION SUDDENLY SHIFTS BACK TO THE F.F.'S NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS...

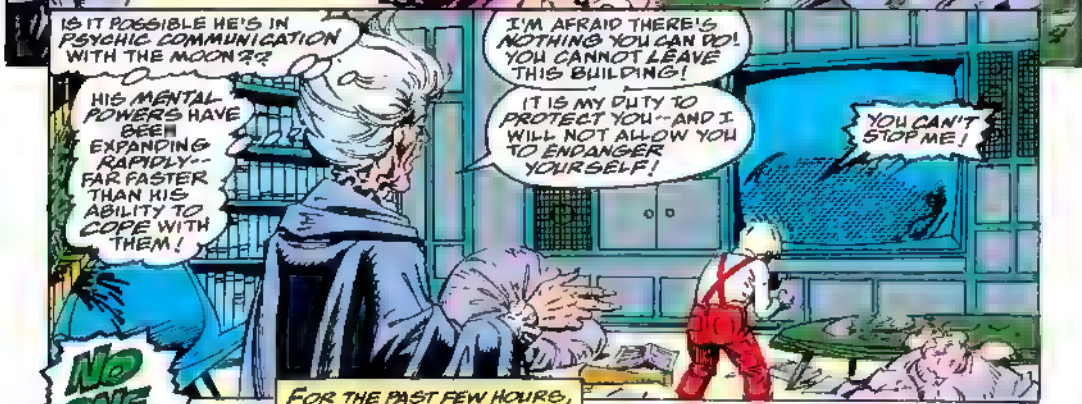
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A SPOILED CHILD, FRANKLIN!

STOP THIS TEMPER TANTRUM AT ONCE!

NO! MY PARENTS ARE IN GREAT DANGER!

I CAN FEEL IT BURNING IN MY HEAD!

THE BAD MAN WANTS TO KILL THEM!



IS IT POSSIBLE HE'S IN PSYCHIC COMMUNICATION WITH THE MOON??

HIS MENTAL POWERS HAVE BEEN EXPANDING RAPIDLY-- FAR FASTER THAN HIS ABILITY TO COPE WITH THEM!

I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO! YOU CANNOT LEAVE THIS BUILDING!

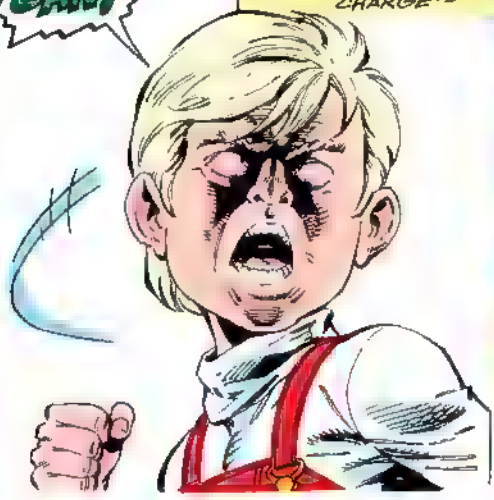
IT IS MY DUTY TO PROTECT YOU--AND I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO ENDANGER YOURSELF!

YOU CAN'T STOP ME!

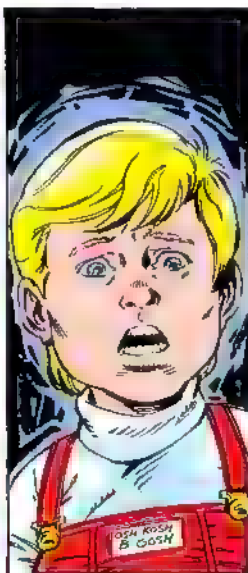
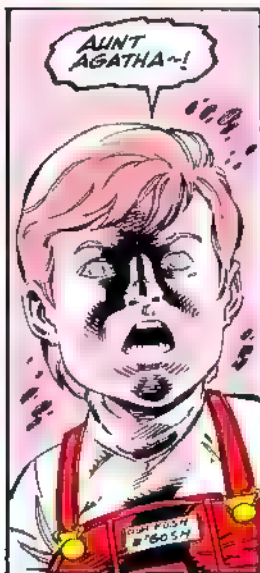
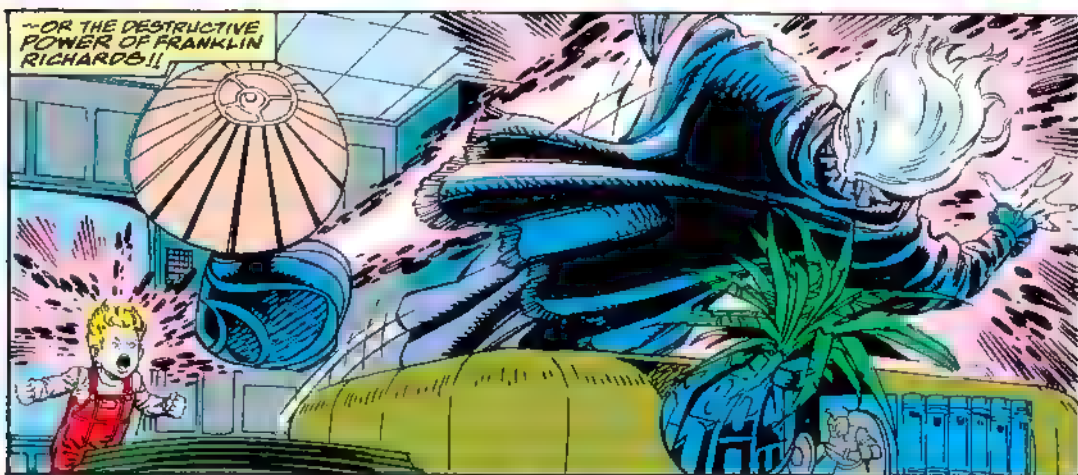
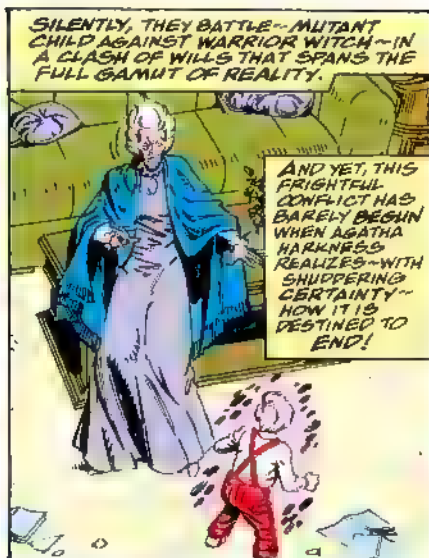
NO ONE CAN!

FOR THE PAST FEW HOURS, AGATHA HARKNESS HAS VALIANTLY ATTEMPTED TO SOOTHE HER TROUBLED CHARGE--

--BUT IF SHE HAD ANY CHANCES OF SUCCESS, THEY ARE PASHED IN THAT FIERY INSTANT!



A FORMER RESIDENT OF NEW SALEM, SHE INSTINCTIVELY DRAWS UPON HER CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE OCCULT--





MEANWHILE, BACK WITHIN THE WATCHER'S DOME...

BEN! DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S NECESSARY TO WEAR THAT GRUESOME HELMET?

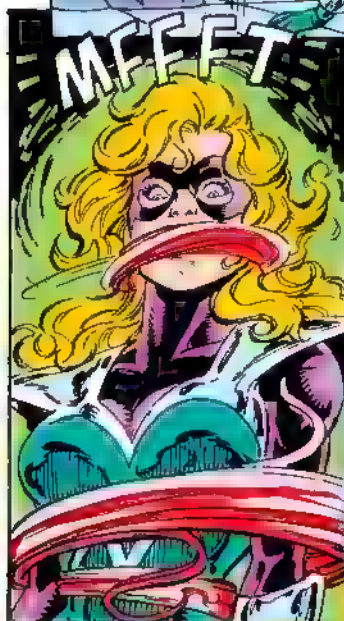
TRUST ME, LADY... IT'S BETTER'N WHAT'S LEFT OF MY FACE!

THAT ROBOT REALLY DID A NUMBER ON ME-- I CAN FEEL MYSELF OZZING AN' PUFFING OUT BENEATH THE MASK!

SOMETHIN'S HAPPENING, AN' IT AIN'T NO IMPROVEMENT!

KEEP YER EYES PEELED!

KNOWIN' DOOM, WE AIN'T STUMBLED ON HIS ONLY TRAP~!

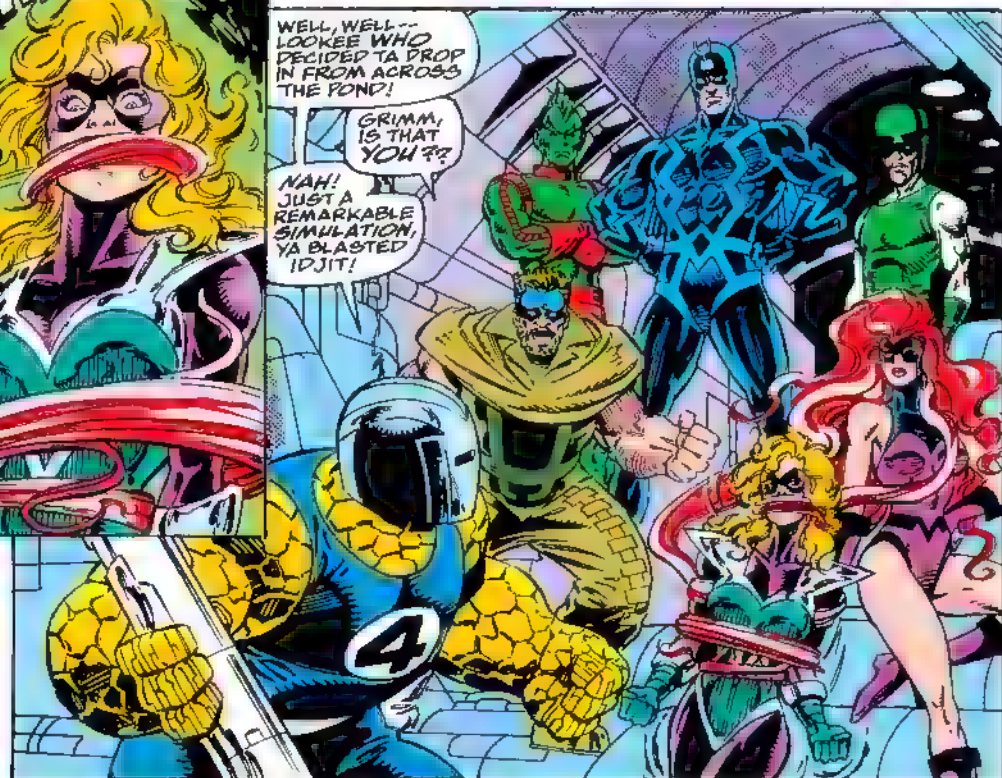


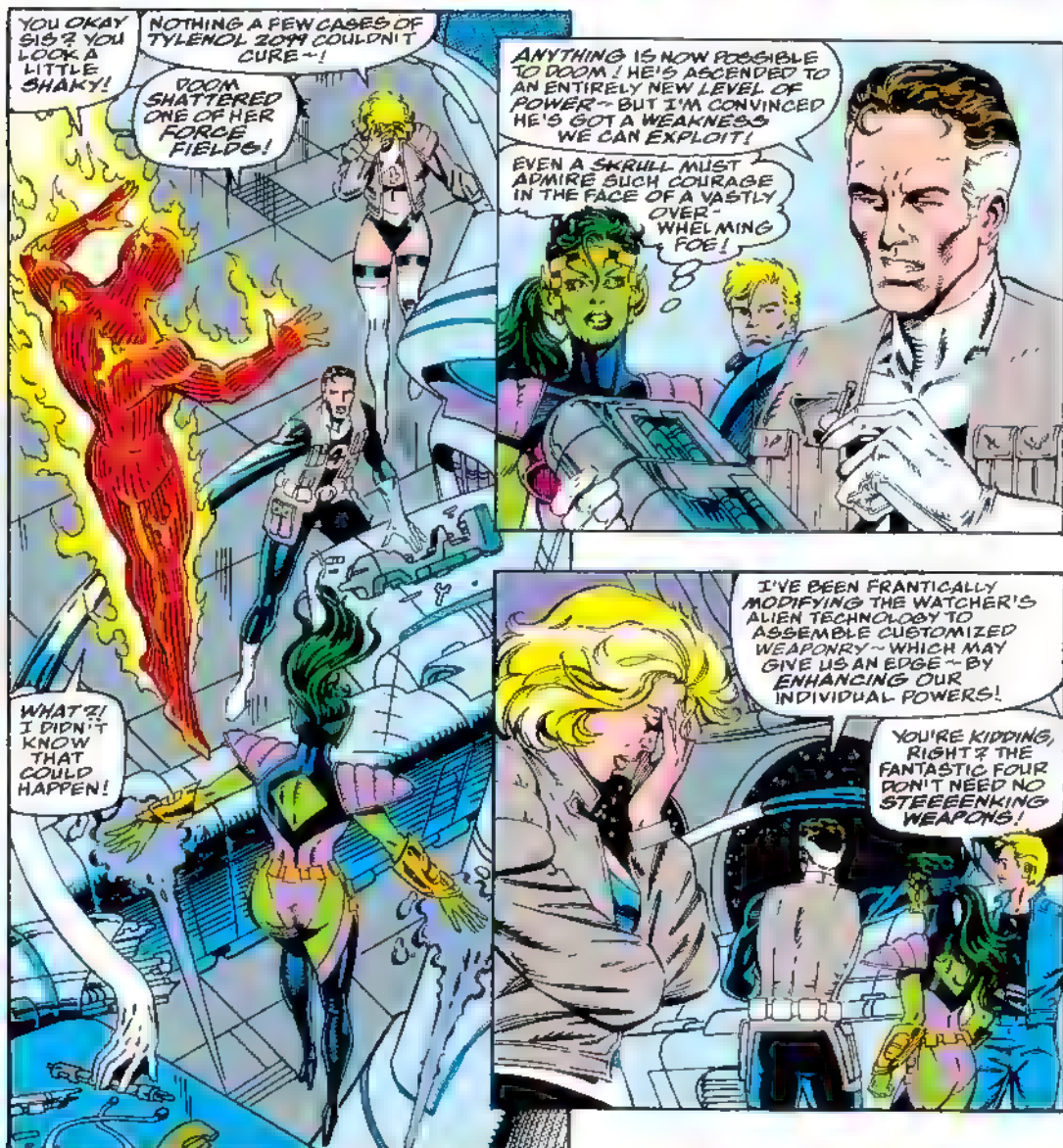
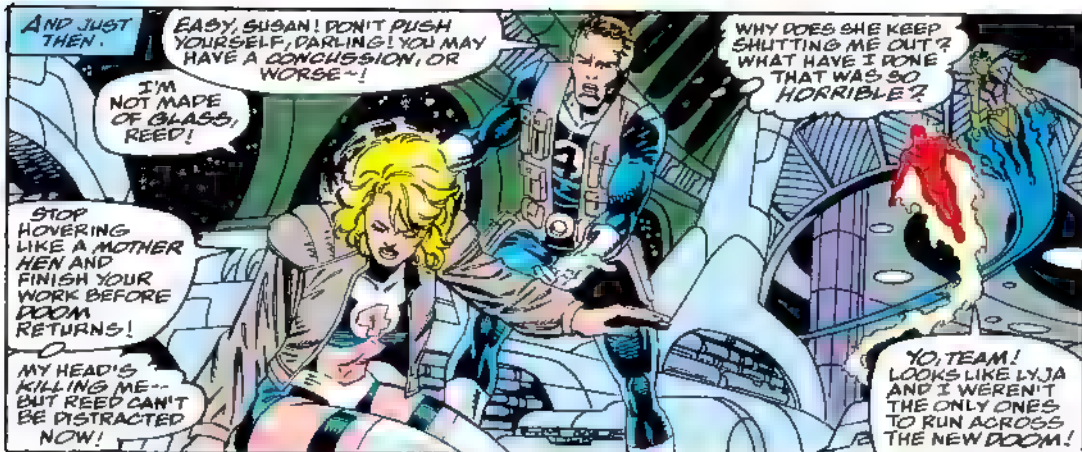
MFFFT

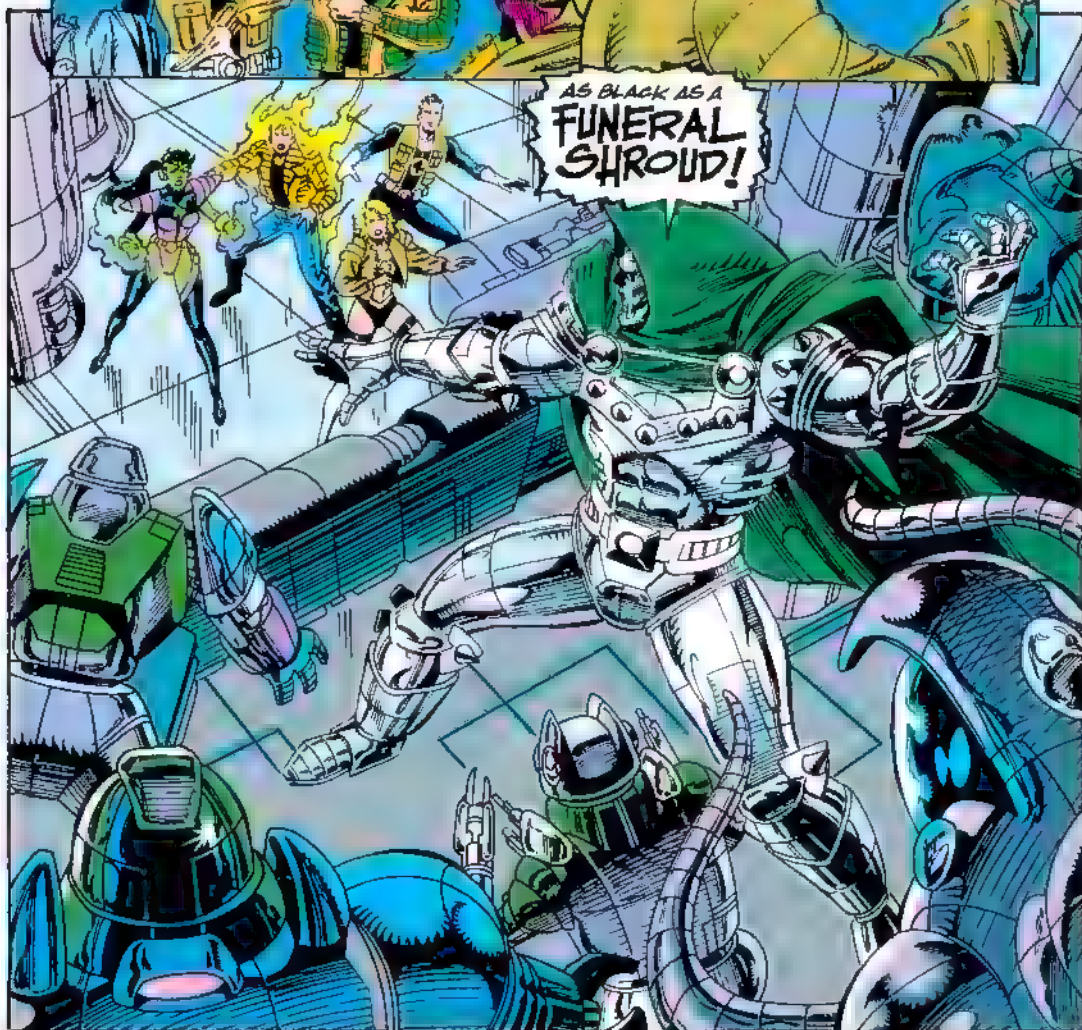
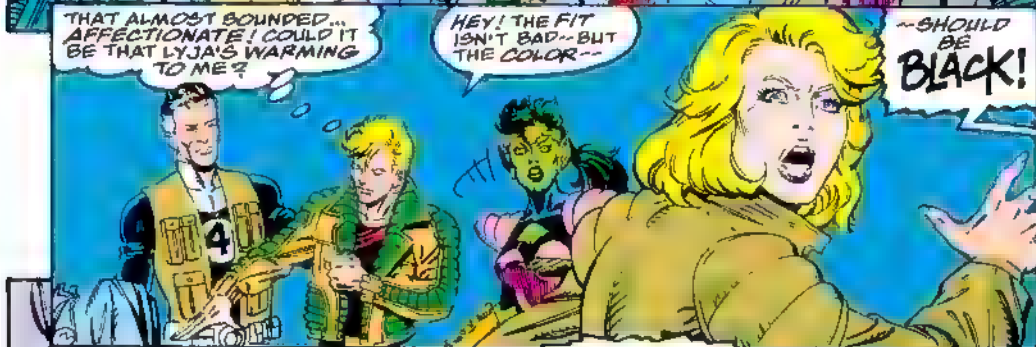
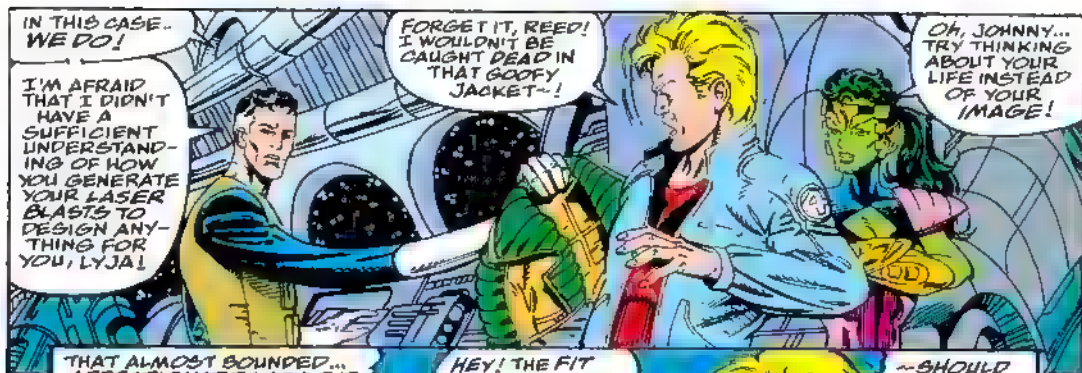
WELL, WELL-- LOOKEE WHO DECIDED TA PROP IN FROM ACROSS THE POND!

GRIMM, IS THAT YOU??

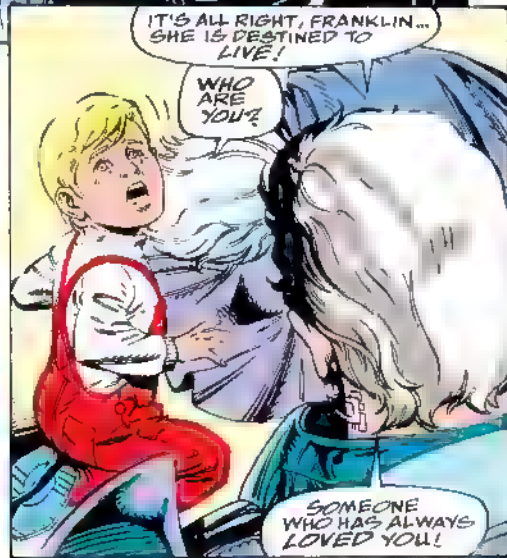
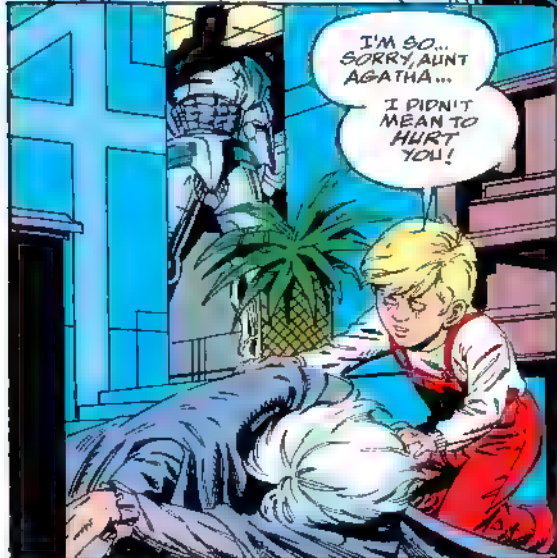
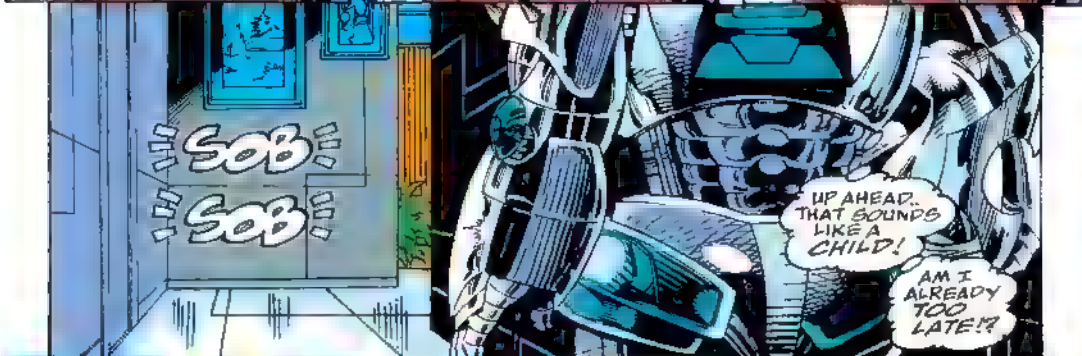
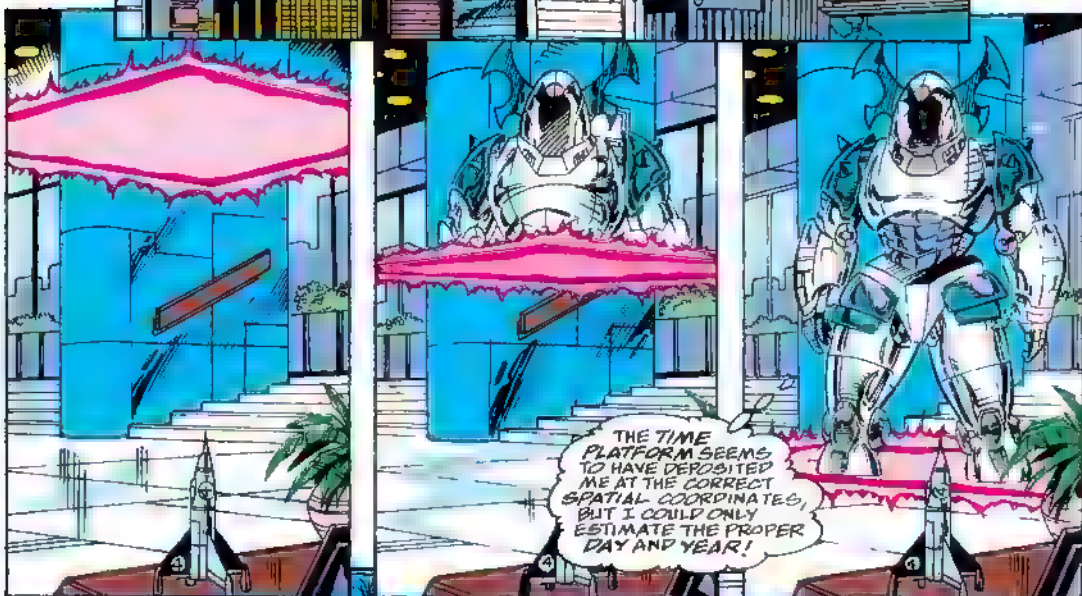
NAH! JUST A REMARKABLE SIMULATION, YA BLASTED IDJIT!







MEANWHILE...





AND ON THE MOON...

YAHOO! FORGET MY COMPLAINTS--!

THIS DOOHICKEY IS IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF MY FLAME--

--BY DRAWING PURE OXYGEN DIRECTLY OUT OF THIS ARTIFICIAL ATMOSPHERE!

IF THAT'S THE CASE JOHNNY--

--YOU SHOULD DIRECT IT TO WHERE IT WILL DO US THE MOST GOOD!

I READ YOU, LYJA!

THE LAST TIME I GOT LOOSE, I ACCIDENTALLY SET FIRE TO EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY!

I'VE BEEN TERRIFIED OF FLAMING ON EVER SINCE!

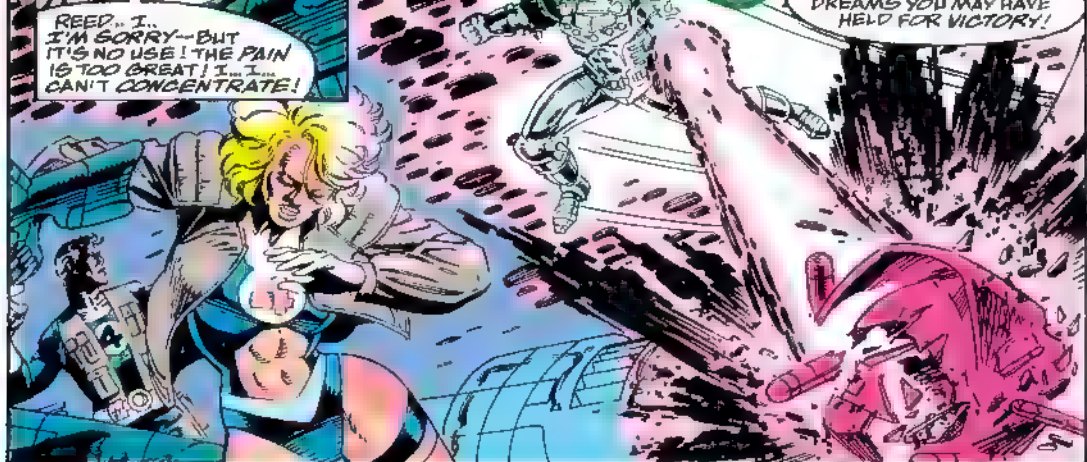
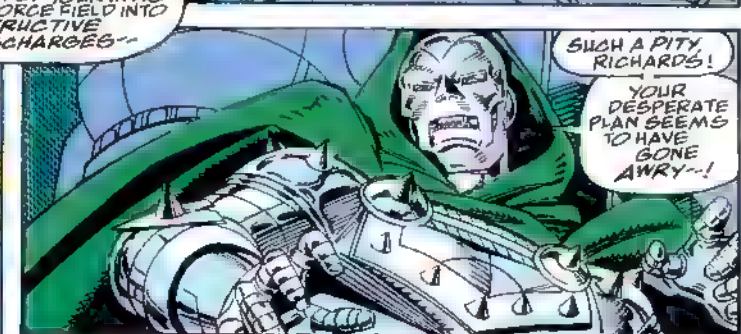
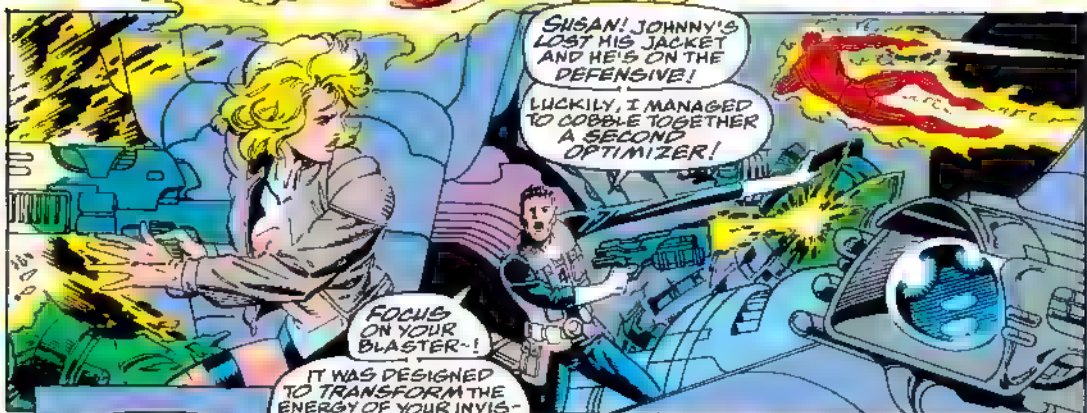
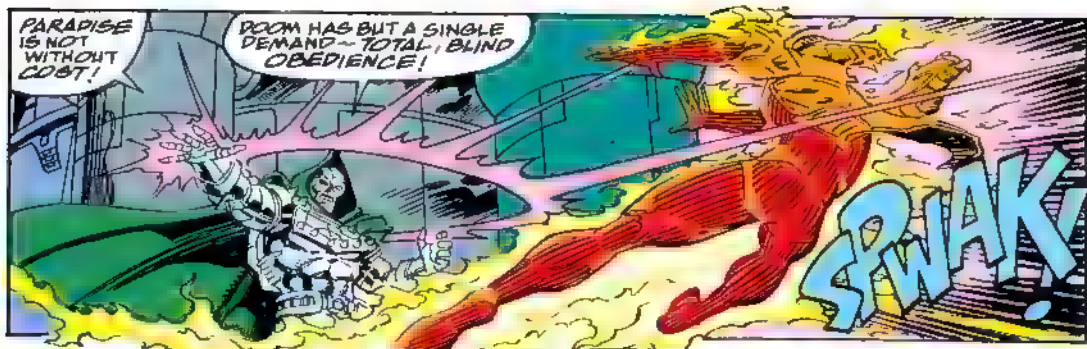
BUT I CAN'T HOLD BACK NOW! I'VE GOT TO UNLOAD LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

YOU FOOLISHLY ATTACK ME BECAUSE YOU ERRONEOUSLY BELIEVE ME MALEVOLENT!

BUT MY MOST FERVENT DESIRE HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO BRING PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE --AS I HAVE DONE TO MY BELOVED KINGDOM OF LATVERIA!

SAVE THE ALTRUISTIC DICTATOR ROUTINE, DOOM!

YOUR PEOPLE LIVE IN ABJECT TERROR OF YOU!



RICHARDS! FOR TOO MANY YEARS,
AND ON FAR TOO MANY OCCASIONS,
YOU HAVE INEFFECTIVELY COM-
PETED AGAINST ME--WITH LITTLE
THOUGHT TO THE BITTER
CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR
MISGUIDED ACTIONS!

I HAVE GROWN
WEARY OF SUCH
RECKLESS
BEHAVIOR--

--AND WILL
SUFFER IT
**NO
MORE!**

SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE
MEGALOMANIAC,
DOOM!

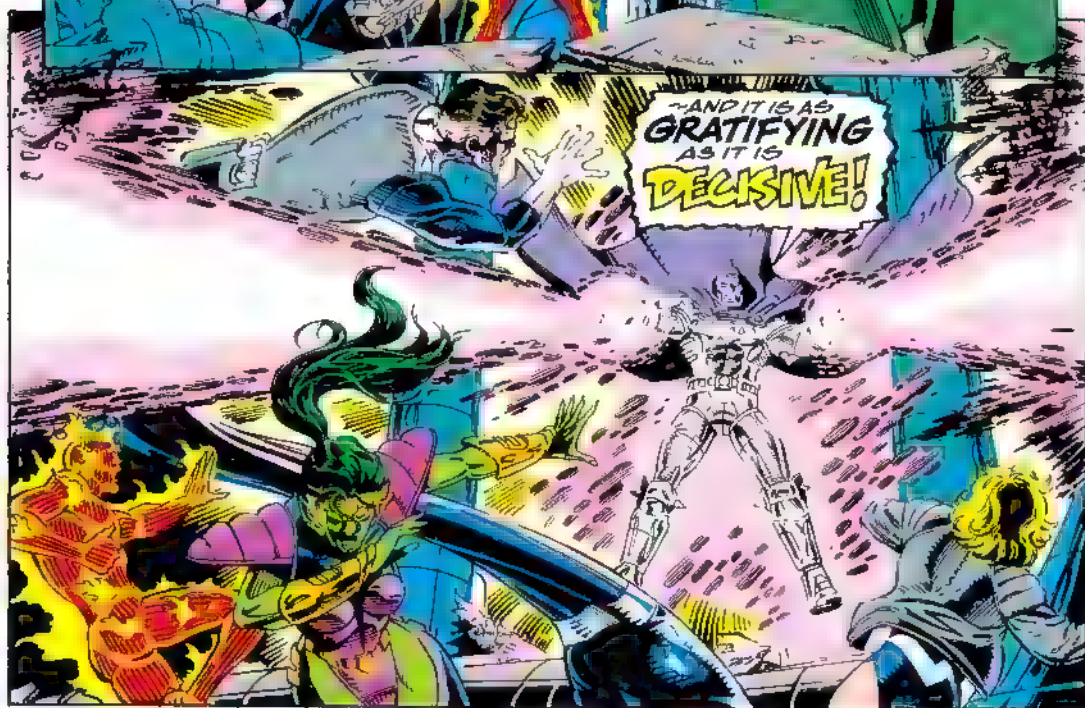
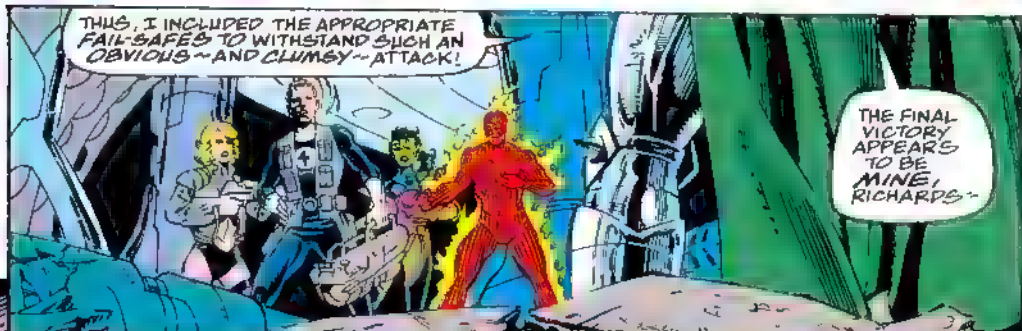
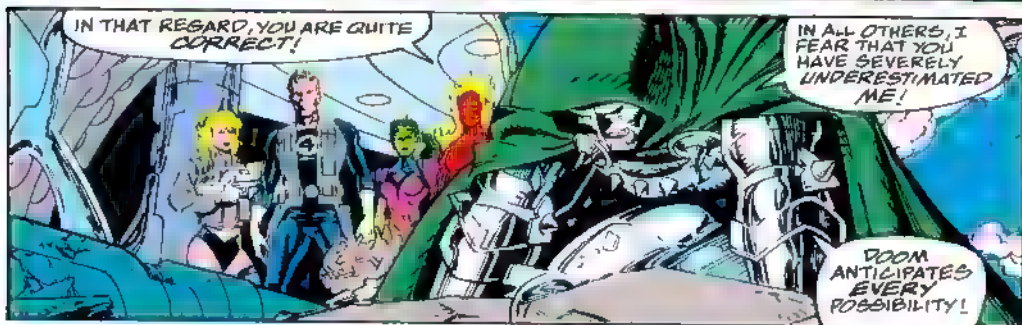
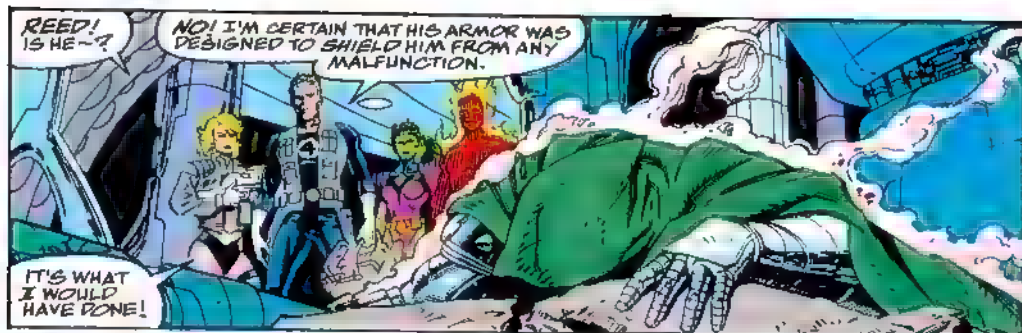
UNFORTUNATELY FOR
YOU, BOTH THE OPTIMIZ-
ER YOU JUST DESTROYED
--AND THE ONE THAT YOU
INCINERATED EARLIER--
WERE MERELY
DECOYS!

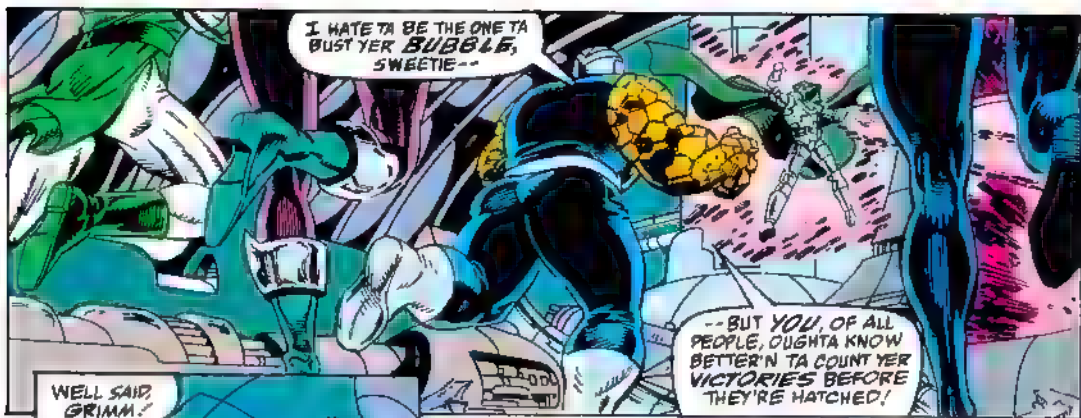
THEIR SOLE
PURPOSE WAS
TO SIPHON
YOUR COSMIC
ENERGY INTO
THE REAL
MCCOY!

ONCE I LEARNED THAT YOU HAD
CONSTRUCTED A SPECIAL BATTERY
TO HOUSE YOUR STOLEN POWER, I
REALIZED THE BEST WAY TO
DEFEAT YOU WAS TO OVER-
CHARGE IT--

--BY HURLING
YOUR OWN
POWER RIGHT
BACK AT YOU!

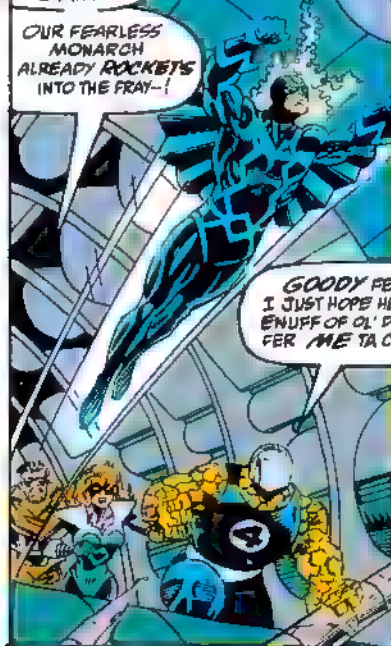
**KAR-
ZAKK**



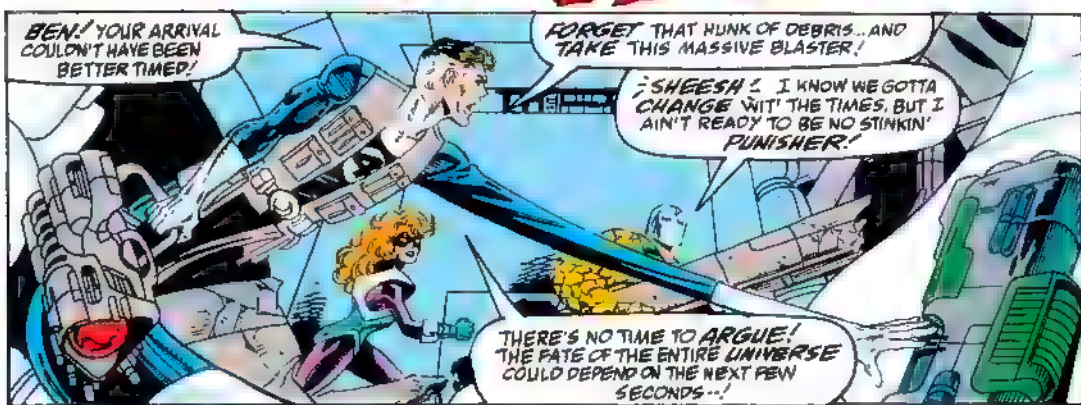
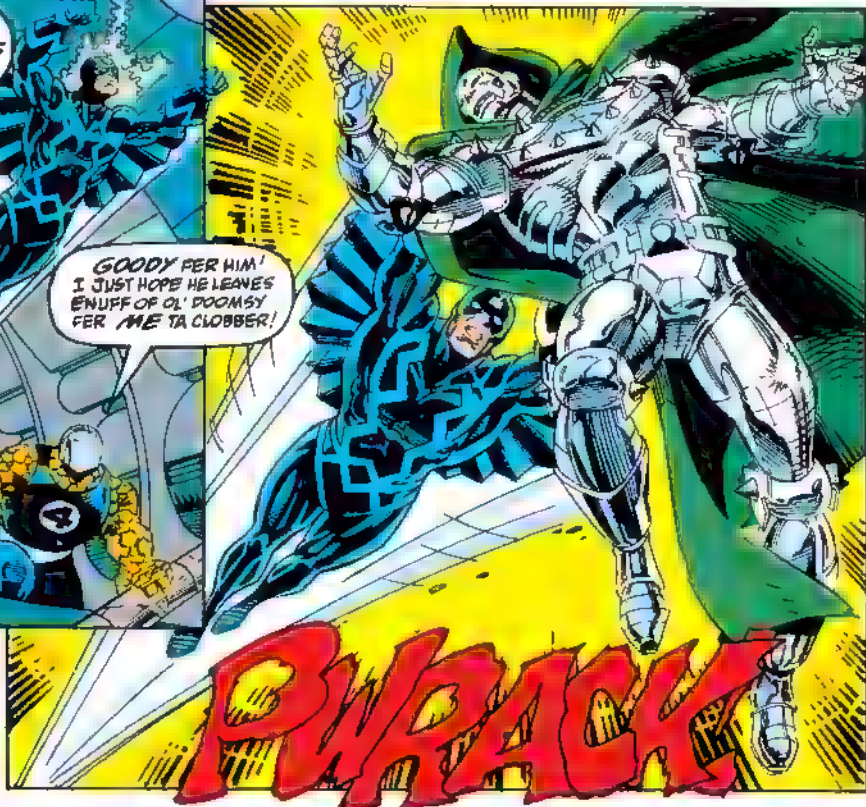


WELL SAID, GRIMM!

OUR FEARLESS MONARCH ALREADY ROCKETS INTO THE FRAY--!



GOODY FER HIM!
I JUST HOPE HE LEAVES
ENUFF OF OL' DOOMSY
FER ME TA Clobber!



BEN! YOUR ARRIVAL
COULDN'T HAVE BEEN
BETTER TIMED!

FORGET THAT HUNK OF DEBRIS... AND
TAKE THIS MASSIVE BLASTER!

SHEESH! I KNOW WE GOTTA
CHANGE WIT' THE TIMES, BUT I
AIN'T READY TO BE NO STINKIN'
PUNISHER!

THERE'S NO TIME TO ARGUE!
THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE
COULD DEPEND ON THE NEXT FEW
SECONDS...!

BRACE YOURSELF!
THE RECOIL COULD BE
VERY POTENT--!

HOW COULD ANY WERE WEAPON
SUCCEED WHERE THE DEVASTATING
POWER OF MIGHTY BLACK BOLT
HAS FAILED?!

SO'RE MY OLD
STOCKS, BUT I CAN
HANDLE 'EM!

HEADS-UP, YA TIN-
PLATED TYRANT!
I GOT A LITTLE
PRESENT FER
YA!

I REALLY GOTTA HAND IT TAYA,
STRETCH--THIS OVERGROWN
POPGUN PACKS ONE HECK
OF A KICK!

I
LIKE
IT!

KWA

BWOOM!

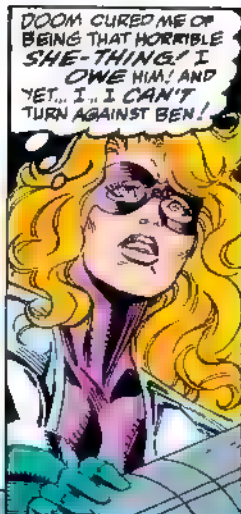
ALAS, YOU UNTHINKING
ABOMINATION...YOU STILL
DO NOT FULLY COMPREHEND
MY TRUE POWER...NOR
SHALL YOU LIVE LONG
ENOUGH TO DO SO!

I COULD EASILY ERASE
YOU WHERE YOU STAND, BUT
I HAVE A BETTER IDEA--!

MISS VENTURA!
THE TIME HAS FINALLY
COME FOR YOU TO
REVEAL YOUR TRUE
ALEGIANCE..

WHAT'S HE
SAYING,
SHARY--?!

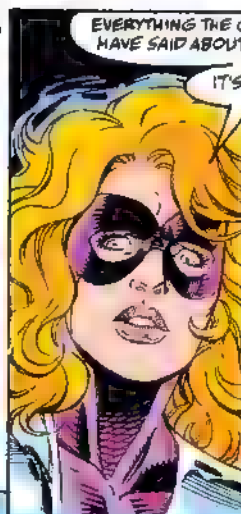
BEN I.
I.



DOOM CURED ME OF BEING THAT HORRIBLE SHE-THING! I OWE HIM! AND YET... I... I CAN'T TURN AGAINST BEN!

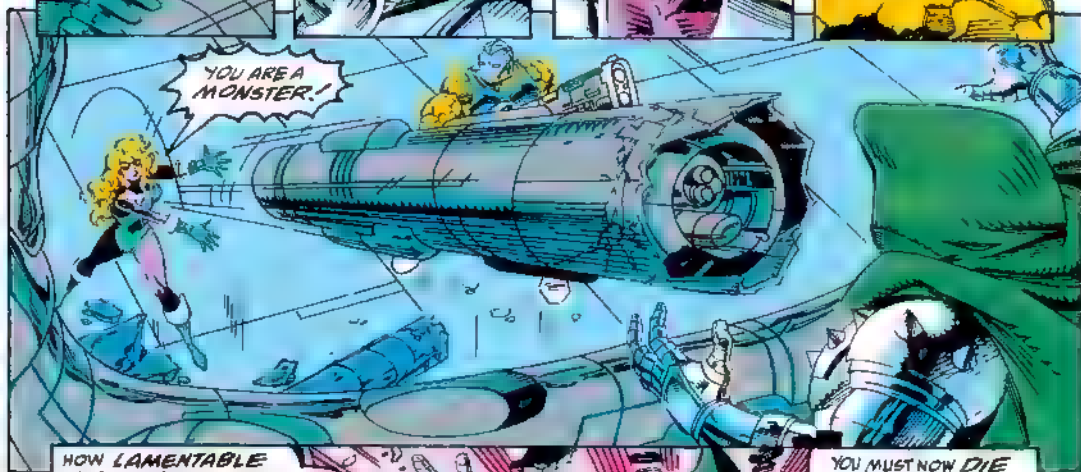


DO NOT HESITATE, WOMAN! DOOM MUST BE OBEYED INSTANTLY-- WITHOUT QUESTION!



EVERYTHING THE OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT YOU...

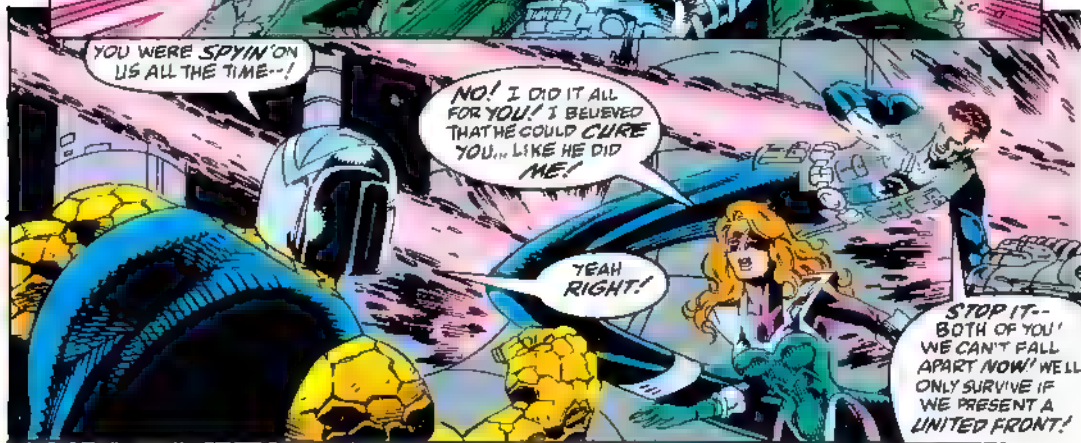
IT'S TRUE!



YOU ARE A MONSTER!

HOW LAMENTABLE THAT YOU FAILED TO HONOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO ME, MISS VENTURA!

YOU MUST NOW DIE WITH THE OTHERS!



YOU WERE SPYIN' ON US ALL THE TIME--!

NO! I DID IT ALL FOR YOU! I BELIEVED THAT HE COULD CURE YOU... LIKE HE DID ME!

YEAH RIGHT!

STOP IT-- BOTH OF YOU! WE CAN'T FALL APART NOW! WE'LL ONLY SURVIVE IF WE PRESENT A UNITED FRONT!

MY OPTIMIZER FAILED EARLIER BECAUSE IT COULDN'T GENERATE THE NECESSARY POWER TO OVER-LOAD DOOM'S COSMIC STORAGE BATTERY!

IT'S MY OWN FAULT FOR COUNTING TOO HEAVILY ON SUGAN'S INVISIBLE FORCE ENERGY!

BUT I CAN REMEDY THAT NOW!

BLACK BOLT--!

YOU MUST SHOUT INTO THE OPTIMIZER!

HAS FEAR DRIVEN YOU INSANE, DR. RICHARDS?

OUR RIGHTFUL RULER DARES NOT SPEAK!

HIS WHISPERS CAN REDUCE MIGHTY MOUNTAINS TO MERE RUBBLE!

BLACK BOLT, I AM FULLY AWARE OF HOW YOUR ABILITY TO HARNESS FREE-FLOATING ELECTRONS IS TIED TO YOUR SPEECH CENTER--

SLOWLY.. ALMOST FEARFULLY.. THE MONARCH OF THE INHUMANS GENTLY GRASPS THE OPTIMIZER!

--AND THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO USE YOUR VOCAL CHORDS CAN TRIGGER A DISTURBANCE OF CATACLYSMIC PROPORTIONS!

SINCE BIRTH HE HAS BEEN INDOCTRINATED WITH THE NECESSITY OF KEEPING SILENT!

TRUST ME. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY..!

AND YET, SUCH IS HIS FAITH IN THE MAN CALLED MR. FANTASTIC, THAT HE WILL DO THE UNTHINKABLE..!

AND THEN, HESITATING FOR ONLY THE MEREST OF MOMENTS, HE SPEAKS--!

THE RESULT IS A SONIC SHOCK-WAVE WHICH EASILY DWARFS THE MOST DEVASTATING NUCLEAR EXPLOSION--

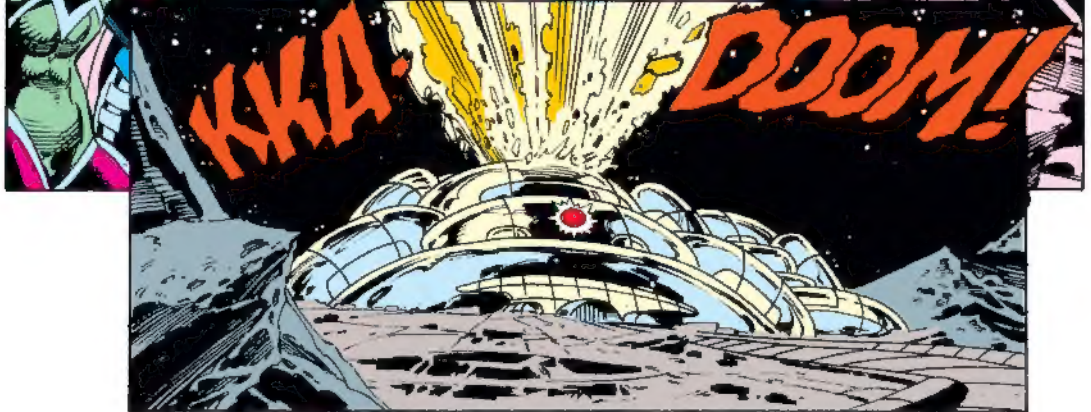
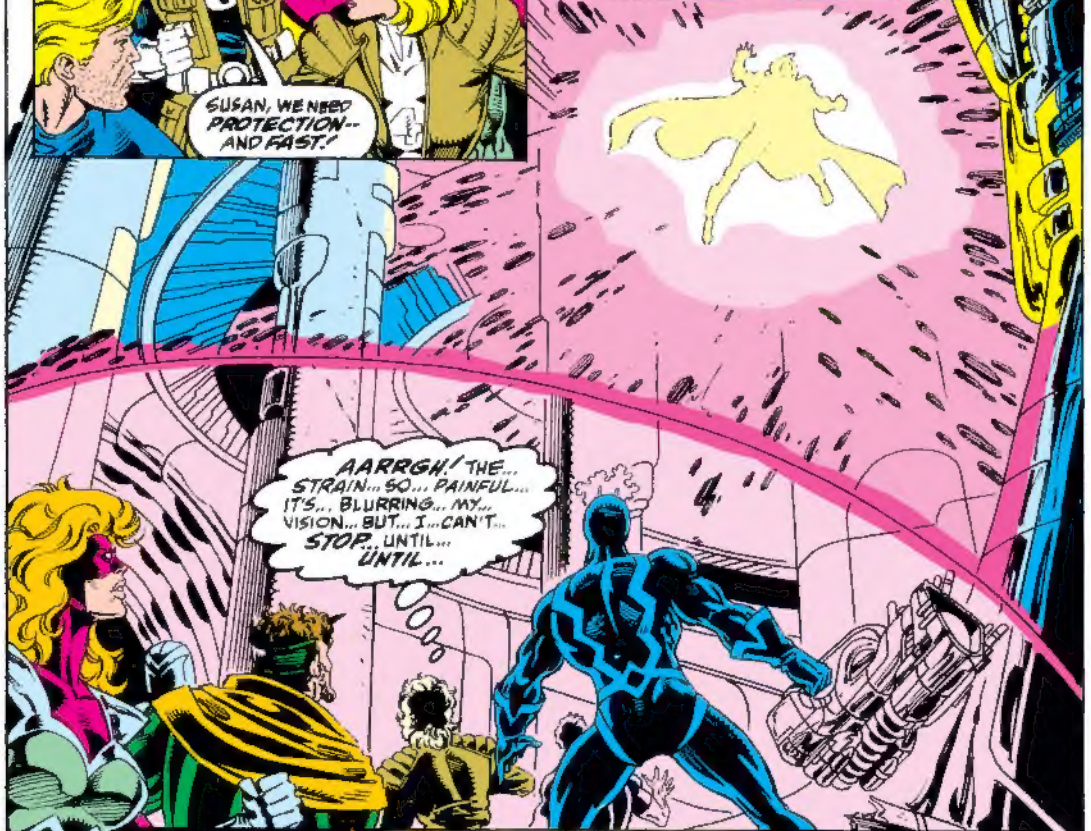
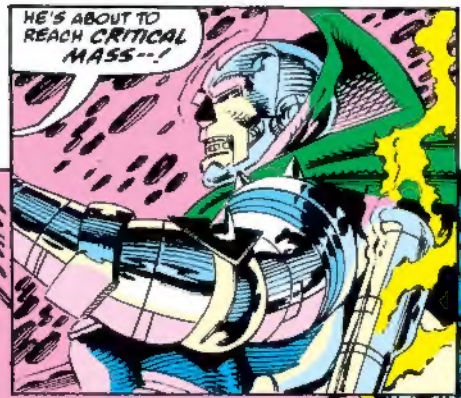
-- AND BATTERS DOOM WITH EVER-INCREASING FORCE!

LOOK AT HIM! HE'S SOAKIN' UP THIS NEW ENERGY LIKE A SPONGE--!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I HOPED WOULD HAPPEN!

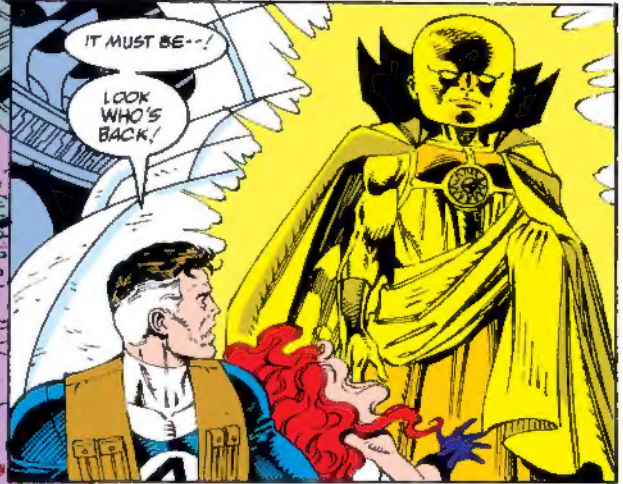
I'M GIVING THAT MADMAN THE ONE THING HE'S ALWAYS CRAVED: POWER!

MORE POWER THAN HE EVER DREAMED POSSIBLE!





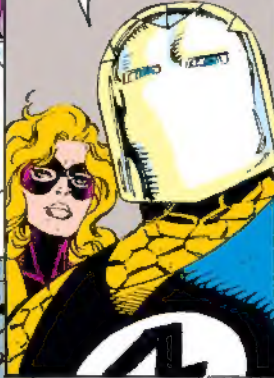
IT'S...
OVER!



IT MUST BE--!

LOOK
WHO'S
BACK!

YA MISSED A PRETTY
WILD PARTY, BALDY!
WE DON'T KNOW FINALLY
WHAT BECAME A OL'
DOC DOOM--
--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S
GONE FER GOOD!



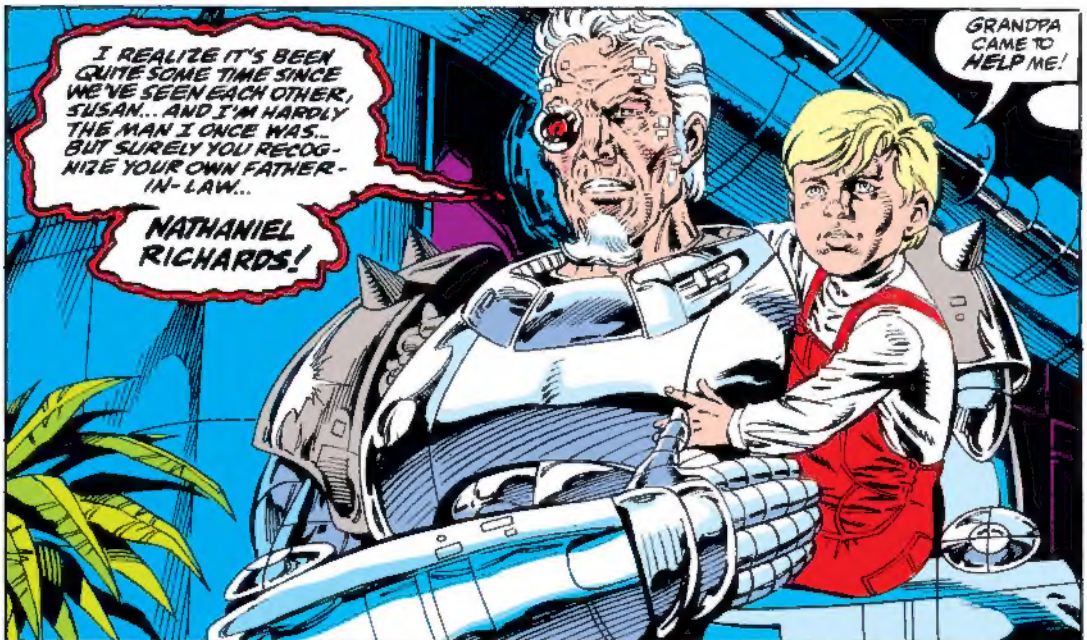
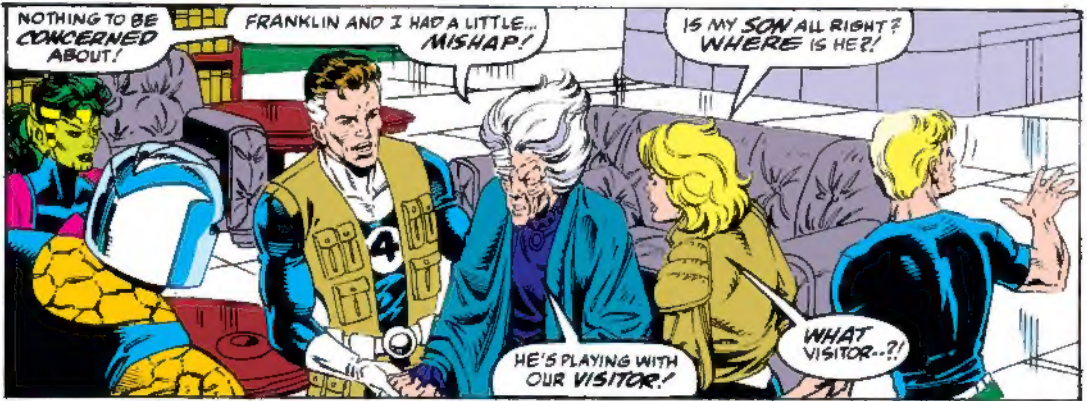
HEY! WHAT'S WIT'
THAT STIFF--?

WHY THE BUM'S
RUSH?

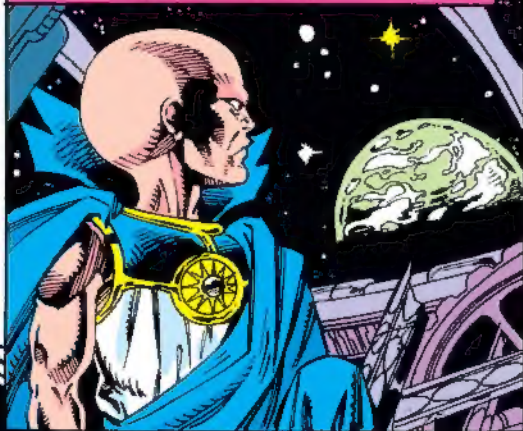
I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT HIS SILENCE
INDICATES THAT HE WAS CHASTENED
BY HIS PEERS FOR HAVING INVOLVED
US IN THIS AFFAIR!

WHATEVER
HIS REASONS,
I'M HAPPY TO
BE HOME!

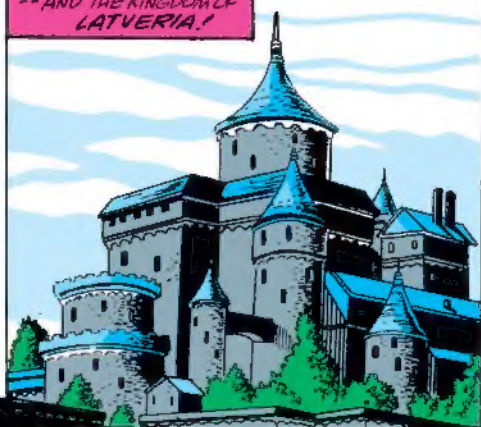
MY HEAD HAS FINALLY
STOPPED POUNDRING.
BUT WHAT OF MY NEXT
ATTEMPT AT AN INVIS-
IBLE FORCE FIELD?!



STANDING AMID THE REMNANTS OF HIS ONCE-PROUD CITADEL, **UATU** TURNS A DISPASSIONATE EYE TOWARD EARTH--



-- AND THE KINGDOM OF **LATVERIA!**

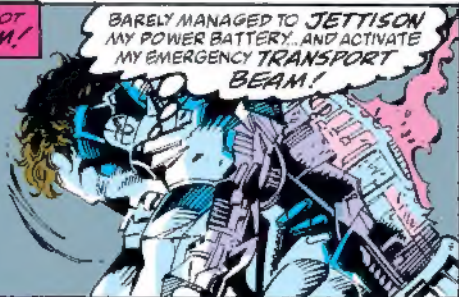


WITHIN ONE OF THE MANY SUBBASEMENTS LOCATED WITHIN **CASTLE DOOM**, A BATTERED FORM DESPERATELY CLINGS TO LIFE!

ANY OTHER MAN WOULD SURELY BE WHIMPERING IN EXCRUCIATING PAIN AT THIS MOMENT--

-- BUT NOT **DOOM!**

BARELY MANAGED TO **JETTISON** MY POWER BATTERY... AND ACTIVATE MY EMERGENCY **TRANSPORT BEAM!**



RICHARDS AND THE OTHERS MUST SURELY THINK ME **DEAD!**

THE **FOOLS!** **DOOM** PREPARES FOR EVERY **CONTINGENCY!**



THE WORLD MAY BREATHE A MOMENTARY **SIGH OF RELIEF!**

MY ULTIMATE VICTORY HAS ONCE MORE BEEN TEMPORARILY **DELAYED!**

BUT **DOOM** IS SURELY **DESTINED TO TRIUMPH** IN THE **END!**

